MIT's Oldest and
Largest Newspaper

thetech.com

The Tech
Established 1881

Volume 143, Number 19

Thursday, November 30, 2023

WEATHER, p. 2
THU: 46°F | 38°F
Mostly sunny.
FRI: 52°F | 39°F
Scattered showers.
SAT: 52°F | 42°F
Cloudy.

KATE LU—THE TECH

Students enjoy an acapella performance by MIT Syncopasian at Nightmarket 2023, Friday, November 17.

Burton-Conner residents to be fined by HRS for 'vandalism'

Musk: "MIT tells us we will be the leaders and inventors of the world, yet simultaneously believes we do not deserve the simple autonomy to paint the space we live in."

By Alor Sahoo and Alex Tang

Head of House for Burton-Conner (BC) Janelle Knox-Hayes emailed students warning that several mini-murals had popped up on the ground floor on Nov. 16. She then warned students that "the fees for repainting over these murals" would be "charged to all residents" at the end of the year. In an email five days later, BC President Cameron Kleiman '24 noted that "stenciled bird murals" had appeared in common areas, and estimated that the fees for repainting would be around $10 per resident.

Prior to its renovation in 2020, BC permitted muraling. During renovations, these murals were painted over entirely. Additionally, Housing & Residential Services (HRS) banned muralling, instead offering students canvases to paint on.

Since reopening in August 2022, BC has had minor issues with painting the walls. In contrast to previous incidents though, recent content on the wall was deemed by some as "reactionary vandalism."

In response, the BC house government and the house team temporarily suspended the guest list, angering many residents. According to an email from Knox-Hayes dated Nov. 28, BC held a town hall to discuss the issue on Nov. 27—which was deemed "productive," with all attending generally agreeing that "guerilla muraling" was an unproductive way to advocate for muraling rights. In response, guest tap access is expected to be reinstated soon.

The Tech reached out to members of BC's house government for comment.

Luca Musk '25 said that over the course of the 2023 spring semester, she met with administrators "four times to discuss murals in Burton Conner." The administrators were Senior Associate Dean of HRS David Friedrich, Assistant Provost of Campus Planning Brent Ryan, Chancellor Melissa Nobles, and Dean of Student Life Suzy Nelson. The meetings "were helpful in getting us panels," Musk said, but she added that "on the question of actual murals on the walls, [BC house government] were quickly stonewalled from even garnering information on how the decision was reached."

Musk stated that "whenever I have asked for corroborating documentation regarding the issues the administration brought up [with the muraling], they have consistently refused to provide it."

Musk added that "it seems the supposed student input in the particular decision to ban wall murals was nearly non-existent."

"HRS frequently points to the Dorm Renewal Working Group (DRWG), as the working group which concluded in banning murals, but interviews with students on the DRWG demonstrate little to no student input whatsoever on the question of wall murals," Musk said, citing a report by Sarah Edgar '19.

Musk emphasized the importance of "recreat[ing] a dialogue that can prevent needless fines and graffiti on our walls." However, Musk stated that the historical context for muraling in dorms is complex. "Murals were not just given to us by MIT, they were persistently fought for. It began in the 70s, where it took four years…before murals started to get institutional support," she said.

Musk said that "the murals issue will not go away. It is an issue of autonomy, not just art." She added that "MIT tells us we will be the leaders and inventors of the world, yet simultaneously believes we do not deserve the simple autonomy to paint the space we live in. Through my experience on this issue, I worry what types of leaders MIT aims to create."

Barnouw: "10 percent of students are food insecure."

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MIT Civil Discourse Project launches speaker series

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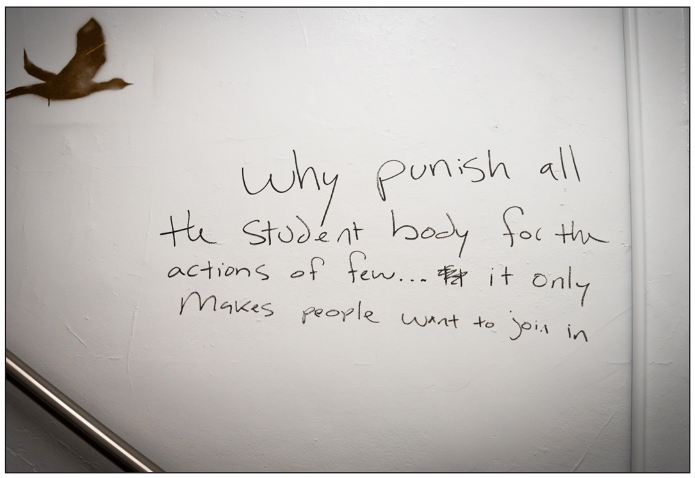

MICHELLE XIANG—THE TECH

Unauthorized murals and graffiti in the Burtonside stairwell of Burton-Conner protest against HRS's mural policies, leading to a temporary freeze of the Burton-Conner guest list.

In Memoriam: Tiansi Xin

Tiansi Xin, a fifth-year doctoral student in Chemistry at the Cummins lab, passed away on Nov. 17. Xin graduated from Peking University before joining MIT in 2019, spending a year at The Warehouse graduate residence before moving to Ashdown house.

Xin was described as a "treasured member of the Cummins lab," with his advisor, Professor Kit Cummins, describing him as "an amazing scholar and chemist." His research focused on developing new sustainable strategies and effectively synthesising phosphorus chemicals commonly found in agriculture. Tiansi recently had a paper accepted to the Journal of the American Chemical Society.

The cause of death was not reported by MIT.

— Russel Ismael

President Kornbluth to testify in Congress Dec. 5

MIT President Sally Kornbluth will testify on Dec. 5 before the House Committee on Education and the Workforce. Harvard President Claudine Gay and University of Pennsylvania President Elizabeth Magill are also set to testify. The committee titled the hearing "Holding Campus Leaders Accountable and Confronting Antisemitism" in a press release Nov. 28.

Executive Director for Media Relations and Crisis Communications Kimberly Allen said that President Kornbluth "welcomes the opportunity" to testify before the committee.

— Alex Tang

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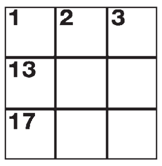

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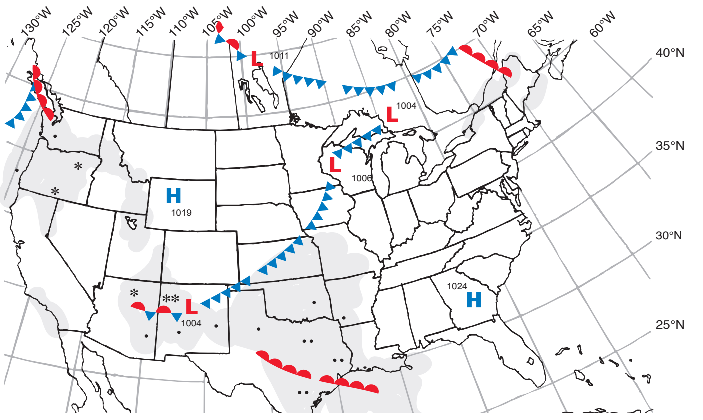
WEATHER

Sweeping Southern storms to shower NE

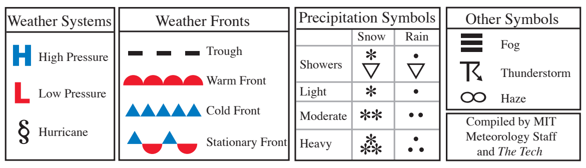
By Yoland Gao
METEOROLOGIST

A cold front currently building over the southern United States will bring a risk of severe thunderstorms to southeastern Texas and western Louisana. The remnants of this storm system will move to affect the US East Coast and New England area over the next few days and bring us some scattered showers. Remember to bring an umbrella or raincoat if you plan on going outside this weekend!

Despite the rain, this system will also bring some warmer air into the region and provide a welcome reprieve from the cold temperatures we had earlier this week. This storm system will be out of the New England area entirely by early next week, bringing back sunny skies and frigid temperatures.



Situation for Noon Eastern Time, Thursday, November 30, 2023



Extended Forecast

Today: Mostly sunny. High around 46°F (8°C). Southwest winds around 7-10 mph.
Tonight: Partly cloudy. Low around 38°F (3°C). Southwest winds around 10-13 mph.
Friday: Cloudly; Scattered showers in the evening. High around 52°F (11°C), low around 39°F (4°C). Southwest winds around 7-10 mph.
Saturday: Cloudy. High around 52°F (11°C), low around 42°F (6°C). Northwest winds around 5 mph.
Sunday: Showers. High around 47°F (8°C), low around 41°F (5°C). Northwest winds around 7-10mph.

MIT Undergraduate Association hosts free food event

Barnouw: “10 percent of students are food insecure.”

By Russel Ismael and Alex Tang

The MIT Undergraduate Association (UA) organized a free food event for students outside of the Stratton Center Nov. 20. The line for the Zinneken’s food truck extended to Massachusetts Avenue as students awaited waffles.

The event was advertised over dormspam by the UA. Natalie Barnouw ’25, the UA Chair for Food Security, briefly spoke with The Tech about how the UA is working to address food insecurity issues amongst undergraduates.

“10 percent of MIT students are food insecure. We’re trying to combat that through various initiatives. The UA just started a food security committee, which will help,” Barnouw said.

The UA Food Security committee was an ad-hoc committee started in 2023 in response to the number of MIT students claiming to lack access to affordable and healthy food sources. The committee is tasked with “[interfacing] with administration surrounding ideas and solutions to food security problems on and around campus” and “[helping] host unique projects/events to support undergraduates gain accessibility to nutrition.”

However, the UA does not intend to solely implement short-term solutions such as food trucks, aiming instead for long-term victories.

Barnouw stated, “I think dining is a big thing. But DormCon is working on that, mostly. Other things are finding more places to use TechCash at.”

She further added that students should be aware of the grocery deals available.

“A big thing is to get people to learn about the distinctive resources they could utilize, like the Daily Table deals,” Barnouw said. The Daily Table will offer free delivery for online purchases over $20, which Barnouw stated will be a “really easy way to get produce.”

The MIT Food & Grocery Map can be used to access food and groceries around campus and beyond. Another resource is the MIT Cultural Grocery Stores Map, which facilitates the cultural food search. Additionally, students can also receive donated meal swipes by contacting someone in Student Support Services or by filling out a meal request form.

Other initiatives like the Food Security Action Team (FSAT) also provide accessible food resources to undergraduate and graduate students alike. The FSAT provides cooking guides about healthy eating habits along with emergency meal requests.

Andre Hamelberg, President of the UA, wrote in an email to the MIT community Nov. 29 that these food resources are being shared to “ensure no student goes hungry due to lack of money” and that “[students] feel comfortable asking for help when [they] need it.”

MIT Civil Discourse Project launches speaker series

Rickard: The debates “encourages diverse opinion and lively debate while maintaining a high standard of intellectual rigor.”

By Russel Ismael and Alex Tang

A new speaker series has been launched at MIT, featuring hour-and-a-half debates about topics ranging from climate change to feminism. The series is part of the new Civil Discourse Project, headed by Humanities, Arts, and Social Studies department professors Alex Byrne, Anne McCants, Linda Rabieh, and Brad Skow. Two speaker events have been held in recent months.

Steven Koonin, former provost at Caltech and author of “Unsettled,” debated with Professor of Atmospheric Science Kerry Emanuel on climate change and whether it is an ‘existential threat’ or a mere ‘bump in the road’ on Nov. 24.

In a separate dialogue on Nov. 9, Mary Harrington, author of “Feminism Against Progress,” and McCants discussed the progress of feminism and scrutinized the movement’s impact on modern society.

Assistant Director of Concourse Sasha Rickard said, “what sets the speaker series apart is the self-conscious effort to take on difficult and controversial topics in a civil, productive way. Each speaker event pairs an outside speaker who holds a position not commonly voiced within MIT with an MIT faculty member. This structure encourages diverse opinions and lively debate while maintaining a high standard of intellectual rigor.”

Rickard added that “Concourse’s role within the Civil Discourse Project is to ensure that there is robust engagement with current MIT undergraduate students. Concourse students attend the speaker events as part of their first-year advising seminar and then engage with the ideas brought up by the speakers by participating in student-only debates on related topics.”

Regarding other initiatives of the Civil Discourse Project, Rickard stated that there will be another faculty seminar on free expression in the spring on March 6. She said that Concourse “will also be producing a series of podcast episodes in conjunction with the speaker events.”

For those interested in future events, speaker events for the spring are listed here. Individuals can reach out to Professor Linda Rabieh at lrabieh@mit.edu for information about the Civil Discourse Project, and Sasha Rickard at *rickard@mit.edu* for information about Concourse.

Do you think YOU can fit the page better than we did?

Join Production, Get Paid, Eat Dinner!

Sol. to Take a Shot

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Sol. to Hard at Work

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IN SHORT

Pre-registration for the spring term and IAP begins Dec. 1.

Undergraduate registration opens for IAP Physical Education & Wellness classes at 8 A.M. Dec. 6.

The last day of classes for the fall semester is Dec. 13!

The Tech's mailing lists have been shut down; use *tt-join@mit.edu* and the following mailing lists: *tt-news-editors@mit.edu; tt-opinioneditors@mit.edu; tt-photographyeditors@mit.edu; tt-arts-editors@mit.edu; tt-campus-life-editors@mit.edu; tt-science-editors@mit.edu; tt-sportseditors@mit.edu.*

SPORTS BLITZ

Friday, November 17th:
- **Men's Water Polo** lost to Iona University 12–13 in Triple Overtime
- **Men's Squash** lost to Colby College 3–6
- **Women's Volleyball** defeated SUNY Cortland 3–0

Saturday, November 18th:
- **Men's Water Polo** defeated Connecticut College 18–3 at the NWPC Championships
- **Men's Cross Country** placed 8th out of 32 at the NCAA Division III Championship
- **Women's Swimming and Diving** defeated Bowdoin College 225–71
- **Women's Swimming and Diving** defeated WPI 253–45
- **Men's Swimming and Diving** defeated Bowdoin College 206.5–79.5
- **Men's Swimming and Diving** defeated WPI 227–71
- **Women's Cross Country** placed 11th out of 32 at the NCAA Division III Championship
- **Women's Soccer** lost to John Carroll University 0–1
- **Men's Squash** lost to Trinity College 0–9
- **Men's Basketball** lost to Macalester College 72–92
- **Women's Volleyball** lost to Claremont College 0–3

Sunday, November 19th:
- **Men's Water Polo** defeated LIU 14–12 in Triple Overtime at the NWPC Championships
- **Men's Fencing** defeated Vassar College 19–8
- **Women's Fencing** defeated Vassar College 24–3
- **Women's Fencing** defeated Wagner College 20–7
- **Men's Fencing** defeated Wagner College 15–12
- **Men's Fencing** defeated Boston College 15–12
- **Women's Fencing** defeated Boston College 17–10
- **Men's Squash** defeated Hobart College 6–3
- **Women's Fencing** defeated Tufts University 15–12
- **Women's Fencing** defeated Sacred Heart University 23–4
- **Men's Fencing** defeated Sacred Heart University 15–12
- **Women's Fencing** defeated Wellesley College 21–6
- **Women's Fencing** defeated Brandeis University 19–8
- **Women's Fencing** defeated Brandeis University 17–10
- **Men's Fencing** defeated Brown University 15–12
- **Men's Fencing** defeated Brown University 17–10

Tuesday, November 21st:
- **Men's Basketball** lost to Keene State 81–119

Saturday, November 25th:
- **Men's Squash** defeated Brown University 9–0
- **Men's Basketball** lost to Salem State University 67–97

Wednesday, November 29th:
- **Women's Basketball** defeated Tufts University 66–63

ROBERT KRAWITZ—THE TECH

Will Bland '27 drives to the rim for the Engineers against Keene State. The Engineers lost 81 to Keene State's 119.

Upcoming Sports Events

FRIDAY 1

Men's Squash
at University of Virginia
4 p.m.

Men's Swimming and Diving
at Winter Invite
6 p.m.

Women's Swimming and Diving
at Winter Invite
6 p.m.

SATURDAY 2

Men's Water Polo
vs Redlands (Division III National Championships)
5 p.m.

Men's Track and Field
at Sharon Colyear-Danville Season Opener

Men's Track and Field
at Suffolk Relays

Women's Track and Field
at Sharon Colyear-Danville Season Opener

Women's Track and Field
at Suffolk Relays

Men's Squash
vs Dartmouth College
10 a.m.

Women's Swimming and Diving
vs MIT Winter-Invite
10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Men's Swimming and Diving
vs MIT Winter-Invite
10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Men's Basketball
vs Fitchburg State University
1 p.m.

Women's Basketball
vs Brandeis University
3 p.m.

SUNDAY 3

Men's Water Polo
vs USA Water Polo Division III National Championship

Men's Fencing
vs Lawrence University
9 a.m.

Women's Fencing
vs Lawrence University
9 a.m.

Men's Fencing
vs St. John's University
10 a.m.

Women's Fencing
vs St. John's University
10 a.m

Men's Squash
vs Navy
10 a.m.

Women's Swimming and Diving
vs MIT Winter-Invite
10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Men's Swimming and Diving
vs MIT Winter-Invite
10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Women's Fencing
vs Tufts University (Brandeis Invitational)
11 a.m.

Men's Fencing
vs Yale University (Brandeis Invitational)
11 a.m.

Men's Fencing
vs Yeshiva University (Brandeis Invitational)
1:30 p.m.

Women's Fencing
vs Yeshiva University (Brandeis Invitational)
1:30 p.m.

Women's Fencing
vs Drew University (Brandeis Invitational)
2:30 p.m.

Men's Fencing
vs Drew University (Brandeis Invitational)
2:30 p.m.

Men's Fencing
vs Cornell University (Brandeis Invitational)
4:30 p.m.

Women's Fencing
vs Cornell University (Brandeis Invitational)
4:30 p.m.

TUESDAY 5

Women's Basketball
vs Bridgewater State University
7 p.m.

WEDNESDAY 6

Men's Basketball
vs Springfield College
7 p.m.

MONDAY 11

Women's Basketball
at Westfield State University
7 p.m.

Men's Basketball
vs Husson University
7 p.m.

WANTED

sports·writ·er(s)
/ˈspôrtsˌrīdərs/
noun
noun: sports writers
journalists who write about sports.

No prior experience needed! Just an interest in sports. And probably writing.

For more information, please contact **sports@the-tech.mit.edu**

More hostages released nearing extended truce deadline

Hamas on Wednesday night released 16 people held hostage in the Gaza Strip, the Israeli authorities said, pushing the number of freed captives past 100, and in return Israel a few hours later set free 30 more Palestinian prisoners.

The prominent Palestinian activist Ahed Tamimi and more than two dozen other women and children were released from Israeli prisons early Thursday, Israeli and Palestinian authorities said, in the latest exchange for hostages held in Gaza.

The Israeli military arrested Ms. Tamimi, 22, in a predawn raid on Nov. 6 on suspicion of inciting violence and calling for terrorist activity, but did not bring charges against her for the nearly three weeks she was jailed in the Damon Prison, near Haifa, Israel.

Gazans have been out on the streets during the temporary cease-fire between Israel and Hamas to stock up on supplies. Long lines snaked out of gas stations in Khan Younis this week, while merchants in Gaza City set up food stalls amid piles of rubble. But residents say the wait is long and many goods are in short supply.

International pressure built on Tuesday for Israel and Hamas to extend a temporary cease-fire into an enduring halt to the war in Gaza, as China's foreign minister, Wang Yi, warned the U.N. Security Council that a resumption of the fighting would "most likely, turn into a calamity that devours the whole region."

—Richard Pérez-Peña, Anushka Patil, Shawn Paik, Farnaz Fassihi, The New York Times

Russia-Ukraine war, day 645

Ukraine said it had killed five high-ranking Russian officials in a strike on a building in an occupied part of Kherson. The armed forces said the strike targeted a meeting in the village of Yuvileyne following "information provided by the underground and concerned local residents".

Russian casualties since the beginning of the war stand at 327,580, according to the Ukrainian military. In its latest daily update, Ukraine's general staff said the figure had increased by 1,140.

The European Union has delivered about 300,000 of the 1m shells it has promised to Ukraine, the Ukrainian foreign minister, Dmytro Kuleba, has said.

Russia has failed in its bid to be re-elected to the executive council of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons. In a vote of the member states, Ukraine, Lithuania, and Poland were elected to fill three seats from the eastern Europe bloc for the 2024-2026 term.

—Naomi Klein, The Guardian

Syrian government shelling resulted in civilian deaths, according to opposition

Syrian government forces shelled a northwestern village Saturday killing at least 10 people, including seven children, as they picked olives, a paramedic group and relatives of the victims said.

The shelling of the village of Qawqafeen, in Idlib province, is the latest violation of a truce reached in March 2020 between Russia and Turkey, who back rival sides in Syria's 12-year conflict that has killed half a million people.

Hundreds of people have been killed or wounded over the past years in violations of the truce that ended a monthslong Russian-backed government offensive on northwestern Idlib province, the last major rebel stronghold in Syria.

The shelling of the farm was reported by the Britain-based opposition war monitor Syrian Observatory for Human Rights and the opposition's Syrian Civil Defense, also known as White Helmets.

The escalation in northwest Syria began with a drone strike in early October on the Homs Military Academy that killed 89 people, including 31 women and five children. No group claimed responsibility for the attack but the Syrian military accused insurgents of carrying it out and launched a brutal campaign of airstrikes on opposition-held areas of northwest Syria in retaliation.

Idlib is home to more than 4 million people, many of them internally displaced by Syria's conflict that broke out in March 2011. The war displaced half the country's prewar population of 23 million and left large parts of Syria destroyed.

—Omar Albam, The Washington Post

North Korea moves heavy weapons to border with South

North Korea has started rebuilding guard posts and stationing heavy weapons along its border with South Korea, the defence ministry in Seoul has said, after the countries' withdrawal from a key confidence-building agreement designed to prevent a war.

Media reports cited the South Korean military as saying it had detected troops from the North repairing camouflaged guard posts that the regime had destroyed as part of a comprehensive military agreement in 2018 designed to lower the risk of a confrontation along the heavily armed demilitarised zone (DMZ).

The South's military said North Korean soldiers had been observed digging trenches at sites along the border and the regime had sent heavy weapons to the area.The DMZ has divided the two countries since the end of the 1950-53 Korean war and is seen as a potential flashpoint in any future inter-Korean conflict.

The DMZ has divided the two countries since the end of the 1950-53 Korean war and is seen as a potential flashpoint in any future inter-Korean conflict.

—Justin McCurry, The Guardian

U.S. says Indian official directed assassination plot in New York

Jesse McKinley, Julian Barnes, Ian Austen

THE NEW YORK TIMES

New York — It was described as a New York hit job with international implications: an audacious assassination plot against a Sikh separatist.

The unsuccessful attempt was outlined on Wednesday by federal prosecutors in Manhattan who charged an Indian national with involvement in a scheme to kill the separatist and political activist, who is a U.S. citizen and has been outspoken in his belief in a Sikh-majority homeland.

The indictment says the plan was devised by an Indian agent and was linked to the June assassination of a separatist in Canada. The hit was planned by an Indian government official who told the man tapped to carry it out, Nikhil Gupta, that there was a target in New York and another in California, according to prosecutors.

But the supposed hit man was, in fact, working for the American government.

The result has been expanded defense and trade ties and regular visits to India by American officials. But the allegations that the government of India, the world's most populous nation, played a role in the killing of one of its critics on Canadian soil and was plotting to do the same in the United States may undermine any notions of India's reliability as an ally.

Mr. Gupta faces charges of murder for hire and conspiracy to commit murder for hire, prosecutors said, with each count carrying a potential sentence of 10 years in prison.

The target of the plot was identified by American officials as Gurpatwant Singh Pannun, who is general counsel for the New York-based group Sikhs for Justice. Mr. Pannun is an outspoken proponent of independence for the northern Indian state of Punjab, which is home to a large number of Sikhs, a powerful minority group in the nation.

Money was soon in play: $100,000 promised "to murder the victim," according to the indictment, including a payment of $15,000 in cash as an advance, according to prosecutors.

Mr. Gupta, prosecutors say, then hired the supposed hit man to kill Mr. Pannun and provided personal information about him, including his home address in New York City and details about his daily activities.

While Sikh separatists committed violent acts in India in the 1980s, Mr. Pannun, like Mr. Nijjar, was not involved in any terror activities and was pursuing an independent state through democratic means, according to U.S. officials briefed on the matter.

Mr. Biden directed William J. Burns, the C.I.A. director, to visit India in August to discuss the suspected assassination plot and press the Indian government to hold those involved responsible, according to U.S. officials familiar with the events. Mr. Biden himself raised the New York plot directly with Mr. Modi when they met at the Group of 20 summit in September.

In a statement posted to the website of the Indian government's Ministry of External Affairs, a spokesman, Arindam Bagchi, said that "during the course of discussions with the U.S. on bilateral security cooperation, the U.S. side shared some inputs pertaining to nexus between organized criminals, gun runners, terrorists and others."

At least 1 dead after U.S. military aircraft crashes into sea near Japan

Arata Yamamoto, Patrick Smith, David Li

NBC NEWS

Tokyo — A U.S. military Osprey aircraft crashed into waters off southern Japan on Wednesday morning, killing at least one person and leaving several more missing, authorities said.

A regional coast guard spokesperson confirmed to NBC News that the plane crashed into the ocean near Yakushima, an island about 45 miles south of the Kagoshima region on the southern main island of Kyushu.

The coast guard said in an earlier statement that eight people were on board the plane, a figure that was revised downward. But then later on Wednesday, the Air Force Special Operations Command issued a statement, saying eight were on board.

The coast guard confirmed that one man was recovered from the sea "unconscious and was not breathing" 1.8 miles from Anbo Port, which is near the accident site on the eastern side of Yakushima, by a boat from the Yakushima Town Rescue Center.

He was given CPR and taken to Anbo Port, it said. The unnamed crew member was later pronounced dead.

There were no immediate details available on the status of the aircraft or the rest of those on board.

The coast guard said in a statement that a member of the public called 118, Japan's version of 911, at 2:47 p.m. (12:47 a.m. ET). The coast guard said it immediately deployed patrol vessels and aircraft to the scene.

At 4 p.m. (2 a.m. ET) a rescue team including boats from the coast guard and a local rescue center found "wreckage-like debris" and an overturned life raft, the coast guard said. There were no people in the raft, the coast guard said.

The CV-22B Osprey is based at Yokota Air Base and assigned to the 353rd Special Operations Wing, according to the AFSOC.

The aircraft was involved a "mishap while performing a routine training mission off the shore of Yakushima Island," the Air Force said.

"In light of this incident, the minister of defense has asked the relevant departments to cooperate with the Japan Coast Guard to confirm whether or not there are any victims and to do their utmost to rescue them," Hiroyuki Miyazawa, Japan's vice defense minister, told local reporters.

Asked why he'd not called the incident a crash, Miyazawa said: "The U.S. side explained to us that the pilot did his best until the very end, so we're using the term 'emergency water landing.'"

The Osprey is a hybrid aircraft famous for its unique "tilt-rotor" flight system, which allows it to take off and land like a helicopter but fly like an airplane.

There have been a number of fatal accidents involving the aircraft in recent years.

A U.S.-Iranian miscalculation could lead to a larger war, officials say

Helene Cooper, Eric Schmitt, Julian Barnes

THE NEW YORK TIMES

Washington — Neither Washington nor Tehran wants the conflict in the Gaza Strip to trigger a wider war in the region, officials in both capitals say.

But in the seven weeks since the Oct. 7 Hamas-led attack on Israel, Iranian-backed militias have launched more than 70 rocket and drone attacks against U.S. troops in Iraq and Syria. The Pentagon, for its part, has responded with four rounds of airstrikes, killing as many as 15 people, U.S. officials say.

National security officials fear a miscalculation amid tit-for-tat attacks, combined with each side's belief that the other does not want a larger fight, could trigger exactly that: a regional conflict, just two years after the United States ended 20 years of war in the Middle East and South Asia.

So far, none of the U.S. reprisal attacks have provoked an escalation, even the one last week in Iraq that killed several militants with Kataib Hezbollah, an Iranian-backed group. The Pentagon said on Tuesday that the attacks had subsided at least temporarily — the most recent being on Nov. 23, the day before an operational pause in the Gaza war began.

But American military commanders and intelligence agencies continue to closely watch Iran as well as the groups it supports, which include Hezbollah in Lebanon, the Houthis in Yemen and militias in Iraq and Syria. A Navy warship in the southern Red Sea on Wednesday shot down a drone fired from Yemen that a U.S. military official said posed a threat to the ship.

Defense officials believe that Iran is using the militia attacks to warn the United States of what would happen to American troops and interests in the region if Israel broadens its campaign to encompass Hezbollah or if Israel targets Iran's nuclear program, as it has in the past.

Since the early days of the conflict, Tehran and Washington have exchanged multiple messages saying that neither side wants to escalate the war, Iran's foreign minister, Hossein Amir Abdollahian, said in an interview.

More than 60 American troops in Iraq and Syria have suffered injuries in the attacks by Iran-backed militia, about half of those traumatic brain injuries. Pentagon officials say all of the troops are now back on duty.

But senior U.S. military officials say that only luck has spared the United States from more serious casualties. One drone packed with explosives landed on a barracks at the Erbil air base in Iraq on Oct. 25. It turned out to be a dud, but several service members would most likely have been injured or killed had it exploded, a senior military official said.

India holds LGBTQ+ Pride march, raises concerns over country's restrictive laws

Shonal Ganguly

AP NEWS

New Delhi — More than 2,000 people took part in a gay pride event in New Delhi, waving rainbow flags and multicolored balloons as they celebrated sexual diversity in India but also raised concerns over the country's restrictive laws.

Dancing to drums and music, the participants walked for more than two hours to the Jantar Mantar area near India's Parliament. They held banners reading "Equality for all" and "Queer and proud."

The annual event comes after India's top court refused to legalize same-sex marriages in an October ruling that disappointed campaigners for LGBTQ+ rights in the world's most populous country.

"It's not about marriage. It's about equality. Everybody should have the same right because that's what our constitution says," said Noor Enayat, one of the volunteers organizing this year's event.

Earlier this year, the Supreme Court's five-judge bench heard 21 petitions that sought to legalize same-sex marriage in India.

The justices called for steps to raise awareness among the public about LGBTQ+ identity and to establish hotlines and safe houses for those in the community who are facing violence. They also urged the state to make sure same-sex couples don't face harassment or discrimination in accessing basic needs, like opening a joint bank account, but stopped short of granting legal recognition to same-sex unions.

Legal rights for LGBTQ+ people in India have been expanding over the past decade, mostly as a result of the Supreme Court's intervention.

In 2018, the top court struck down a colonial-era law that had made gay sex punishable by up to 10 years in prison and expanded constitutional rights for the gay community. The decision was seen as a historic victory for LGBTQ+ rights.

Despite this progress, Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Hindu nationalist government resisted the legal recognition of same-sex marriage and rejected several petitions in favor. Some religious groups, too, had opposed same-sex unions, saying they went against Indian culture.

Homosexuality has long carried a stigma in India's traditional society, even though there has been a shift in attitudes toward same-sex couples in recent years. India now has openly gay celebrities and some high-profile Bollywood films have dealt with gay issues.

According to a Pew survey, acceptance of homosexuality in India increased by 22 percentage points to 37% between 2013 and 2019. But same-sex couples often face harassment in many Indian communities, whether Hindu, Muslim or Christian.

2.4 billion hungry lives: The new face of urban food insecurity

T.K. Rajalakshmi

FRONTLINE

World — The latest Food and Agriculture Organisation report on food insecurity states that most of the food consumed across the rural-urban continuum is purchased from markets. What people ate was determined by cost and affordability, which in turn depended on agrifood systems, food supply and value-added chains. The rural-urban divide was no longer useful to understand the links across urban, peri-urban (less than one-hour travel to large, intermediate and small cities) and rural areas.

Food insecurity is also no longer a predominantly rural problem. The report titled "The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2023" assesses the food situation of 2022 and is a collaborative effort involving the World Food Program, United Nations Children's Fund, World Health Organisation and the International Fund for Agricultural Development.

A presupposition in the report is that things went from bad to worse in the backdrop of COVID-19 and the Ukraine-Russia conflict, more so for the low and middle income countries. Although global hunger had reduced because of economic recovery in the post-pandemic phase, it still remained above pre-pandemic levels. Disposable incomes were low under the persisting impact of the pandemic, inflation was high and food cost was rising.

Food insecurity is defined as the short-term inability to meet dietary requirements. Chronic Undernourishment is defined as the long-term or persistent inability to meet minimum dietary requirements within a country.

The report estimates that 2.4 billion people, including women in rural areas, were deprived of access to safe, nutritious and sufficient food in 2022. Asia had 402 million people affected by hunger, which constituted 55 per cent of the hunger-affected globally, followed by Africa with 282 million. Prevalence of Undernourishment (PoU) was higher in low-income countries. In South Asia as a whole, 389.2 million people were severely food insecure in 2022.

No country is going to reach the target of zero hunger, child under-nutrition and low birth-weight by 2030, the report predicts. Exclusive breastfeeding was the only area that registered significant improvement.

The report is based on estimates from data provided by governments to measure the progress towards Sustainable Development Goals and Global Nutrition Targets. Where data are not given, the FAO makes estimates based on globally accepted polls and its Food Insecurity Experience Scale Module.

This model has been applied in 140 countries, including India, since 2014. Yet nationally sourced surveys remain the best sources. Some countries, including India, have not been providing data on moderate and severe food insecurity for quite a few years now. Neither do they conduct nationally represented household surveys on dietary energy consumption.

Argentina election: Javier Milei's radical proposals face test of reality

Pascal Fletcher

BBC NEWS

Argentina — Javier Milei, the anti-establishment politician who cruised to victory in the Argentine presidential election last week, has courted intense controversy with radical, provocative policy proposals and statements.

This led many detractors of the self-styled "anarcho-capitalist" to call his candidacy a "leap into the void".

Now, with the mop-haired president-elect only two weeks away from taking over Latin America's third-largest economy, many are asking, how will his policies and positions face the test of reality?

Javier Milei had proposed to dollarise the economy and eliminate the Argentine Central Bank as a strategy to "kill" hyper-inflation. This meant making the US dollar the national currency in place of the Argentine peso, whose value, Mr Milei said, had been "melting like blocks of ice in the Sahara."

One obstacle is that ditching the Central Bank and making the US dollar legal tender would need approval from Argentina's Congress and could even require changing the constitution.

Although Mr Milei convincingly won the presidency, his Libertad Avanza (Freedom Advances) movement is barely the third largest political force in Congress. This suggests difficult negotiations might be in store.

Some economists have also questioned whether Mr Milei's plans are feasible, saying they would weaken his government's ability to manage domestic monetary policy.

Another topic that had made media headlines was Mr Milei's apparent declaration of himself as a climate change "sceptic", that is, someone who denies the role of humans in global warming.

In his proposed government programme, one of the numerous ministries he had said he planned to axe would be the existing environment ministry.

Before his election, Milei had signalled he could freeze ties with Brazil and China, Argentina's two top trading partners, on the grounds that he did "not make pacts with communists."

Mr Milei and his vice-presidential running-mate Victoria Villarruel also ignited intense controversy during the campaign with their position regarding Argentina's 1976-83 military dictatorship.

Defying traditional positions held by Argentina's government and society for the last 40 years, Mr Milei caused outrage by contesting the generally accepted estimate of those abducted and "disappeared" in the dictatorship - 30,000 - asserting the actual number was closer to 9,000.

This equivalence of presentation of the two sides raised howls of protest from groups like the Plaza de Mayo mothers and grandmothers of disappeared persons.

New online competition laws proposed in Australia

Australia's competition watchdog said on Monday new competition laws were required in response to the rapid expansion of digital platforms such as Amazon (AMZN.O), Apple (AAPL.O), Google (GOOGL.O), Meta (META.O) and Microsoft (MSFT.O) in the country.

The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) in its latest report for the Digital Platform Services Inquiry raised concerns that the expansion of these platforms has increased the risk of them engaging in harmful behaviour such as invasive data collection and practices that lock in customers and limit their choices.

The ACCC has not made specific findings of anti-competitive conduct, but said digital platforms with significant market power can use practices such as the bundling of products, pre-installation and default settings to limit customer choice or deter innovation at competitors.

The regulator has also proposed new mandatory obligations on all digital platforms to address scams, harmful apps, fake reviews, including notice and action requirements and stronger verification of business users and reviews.

Competition laws should also address the potential challenges posed by emerging technologies such as generative AI and virtual reality, the ACCC said. Earlier this year, the regulator announced plans to probe the country's fast-evolving ecosystem of digital platform service providers as part of a five-year inquiry into the sector.

—Ayushman Ojha, John Biju, Reuters

Google agrees to pay Canadian media for using their content

Canada's standoff with the technology giants Google and Meta over their use of domestic news content eased on one front, as the federal government announced Wednesday that it had reached a deal with Google to compensate publishers in Canada.

The agreement comes just weeks before a national law is set to take effect that will require tech companies to pay news outlets for using their content online.

Under the deal, Google will provide $73.5 million, or 100 million Canadian dollars, each year to news organizations, including independent outlets, Indigenous media and multilingual media.

The funds will be distributed based on the number of workers each qualifying news outlet employs, government officials said. (Last quarter, Alphabet reported $76.7 billion in revenue.)

Canada's national public broadcaster, the CBC, said it was "very pleased" with the agreement and believed it was an encouraging financial development for other news companies, Leon Mar, a spokesman, said in an email.

The online news law, which was modeled after a similar law in Australia, had faced a backlash from tech companies, including Meta, which owns Facebook and Instagram, and in August started blocking news content from the feeds of Canadian users.

—Vjosa Isai, The New York Times

Nigeria budget: President Tinubu says budget offers "renewed hope"

Nigeria's president has delivered his first budget since taking office, as the country faces a deepening cost of living crisis. He announced government plans to spend 27.5 trillion naira ($34.85bn; £27bn) in the new financial year. Bola Ahmed Tinubu said the plans would attract investment, offering "renewed hope" during tough economic times.

After winning disputed elections with 37% of the vote back in May, he shocked many Nigerians in his inaugural address when, in an off-the-cuff remark, he scrapped a decades-old fuel subsidy. The move led to a sharp rise in the price of fuel and other goods, worsening the cost of living crisis for many. Mr Tinubu also scrapped foreign exchange controls, which also contributed to pushing up inflation to its highest levels in nearly two decades, at 25%.

Mr Tinubu projected higher oil production and tax collection would boost government revenues and allow his administration to borrow less. He added that the economy was expected to grow by at least 3.76% in 2024, and inflation would be at around 21.4%. It stood at 27.3% in October, up from 26.72% in September, according to official statistics. The economic crisis in Nigeria has led to a huge exodus of young professionals who have struggled to find jobs. The budget will have to be approved by lawmakers before it comes into effect.

—Danai Nesta Kupemba, BBC News

New Zealand's new government scraps world-leading smoking ban to fund tax cuts

A year after passing a world-leading smoking ban designed to save thousands of lives and prevent new generations of young adults from smoking, New Zealand has announced a u-turn to help pay for tax cuts, infuriating public health officials and anti-tobacco groups.

Introduced last year, the anti-smoking law banned the sale of tobacco to anyone born or after January 1, 2009. The legislation was due to be implemented by July 2024 and would have included harsh penalties for violations such as fines of up to NZ$150,000 ($96,000).

New Zealand's new finance minister Nicola Willis on Saturday said the measures would be axed before March 2024, with revenue generated from cigarette sales going towards tax cuts.

—Heather Chen, CNN

THE LUDDITE

WEEKLY SATIRE

MIT jacks up laundry prices

By Peter Pu

Ever since the Charles was the Quinobequin, the riverside has teemed with creatures of all sorts— from canada geese (for the coats) to herons and rabbits. But the recent hike in dorm laundry prices has forced cash-strapped students to join the flock.

Laundry will now be rated at a dollar a minute, meaning that a 30-minute wash followed by a 60-minute dry will total $90. A routine laundry run will now cost more than dry-cleaning a three-piece suit or bridal gown. The main symptom of the rate hike has been cash-strapped students getting clapped. They're wading into the Charles to rinse their clothes and erecting clotheslines by the shore to dry them off.

Jane Calle, a senior who recently signed with a leading quantitative trading firm, lauds the change as "the best thing that's happened since extra guac."

"The worst feeling is when you do your laundry and the next person takes it out before you have a chance to retrieve it," Jane said. "I think this really solves that problem now that less people are doing laundry."

Nate Pierce-Collins, a top MIT administrator, explained that the reasoning behind the change was to reduce congestion in the laundry room. In a similar vein as American healthcare, the policy rests on a three-legged stool: high prices, low coverage, and no way out.

In an interview with The Tech, Nate said, "At MIT, we believe students shouldn't be defined by their tax bracket. We want to encourage shallow-pocketed students to find paid research and teaching opportunities rather than be lazy bums."

CORRECTION: We removed quotes from two students who couldn't afford to pay us to care about their opinions.

MIT Students for Inalienable Rights wins Nobel Peace Prize

By Peter Pu

The Norwegian Nobel Committee has awarded the 2023 Nobel Peace Prize to Salman Deng, president of the MIT Students for Inalienable Rights (MSIR), for his "trailblazing work in promoting relevant discourse at MIT."

Salman was elated this morning at 3:28am when he got the call from Stockholm. He was up saving a duplicate copy of his inbox of 33,000 emails in a separate hard drive so that they would never be lost. After winning the prize, he cracked open a bottle of what appeared to be Ice Mountain, but explained that this water was not from the glaciers but "melted from woke liberal snowflakes."

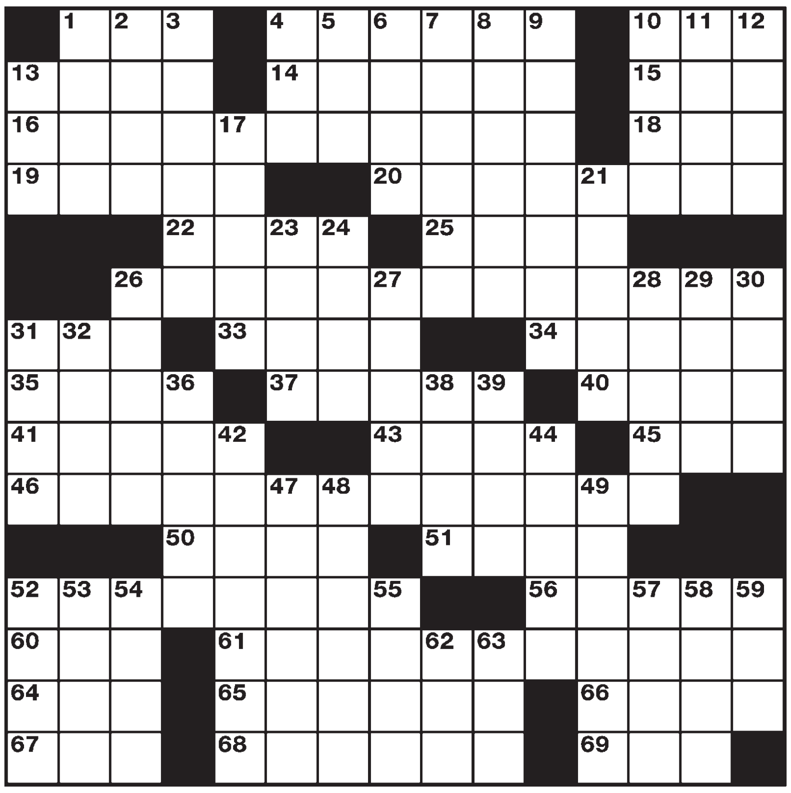
Among the speakers the MSIR has hosted at MIT include scholars from PragerU, journalists from *The Epoch Times*, influencers from *Truth Social*, theorists from the Flat Earth Association, feminists from the Menstrual Blood Drinkers, activists from the Oath Keepers and Students for Fair Admissions, and members of The Institute of Spicy Davids. Salman comes from humble beginnings. In an interview with *The Tech*, Salman, beaming with a smile that could unite nations and flexing arms that could lift children out of poverty, said, "As a kid, if a Sheila dropped her things in the hallway, I wasn't gonna help her pick those up. I mean I wasn't Malala. But now what can I say?"

Next issue: IFC approves APHI-THETA merger proposal

Disclaimer: the content above is intended for entertainment purposes only and is to be considered satire. Any names are purely fictional and all references to places, people, and products are purely coincidental.

Take a Shot by Mark McClain

Solution, page 3



ACROSS
01 Big Bang Theory character from India
04 Dismay greatly
10 Pledge
13 NASA cancellation
14 15 Across sounds
15 Barnyard mom
16 Group of high school sports fans
18 Chest bone
19 Shade of yellow
20 Beneficiaries of a welcome sight
22 Tuscan city
25 Some Old Masters
26 Unexpected encounter
31 Try to win over
33 Mild oath
34 Opera star Fleming
35 Explosive rounds
37 Stands for conductors
40 Venerable boarding school
41 Impertinent people
43 Southern superfood
45 Word on a dime
46 Major pane
50 Footnote phrase
51 Persian Gulf capital
52 Nicaragua neighbor
56 See 57 Down
60 Will Smith title role
61 Education evaluations
64 Jabba adversary
65 Emerson prose
66 Overlay
67 Assent of a sort
68 Two-channel
69 To some degree

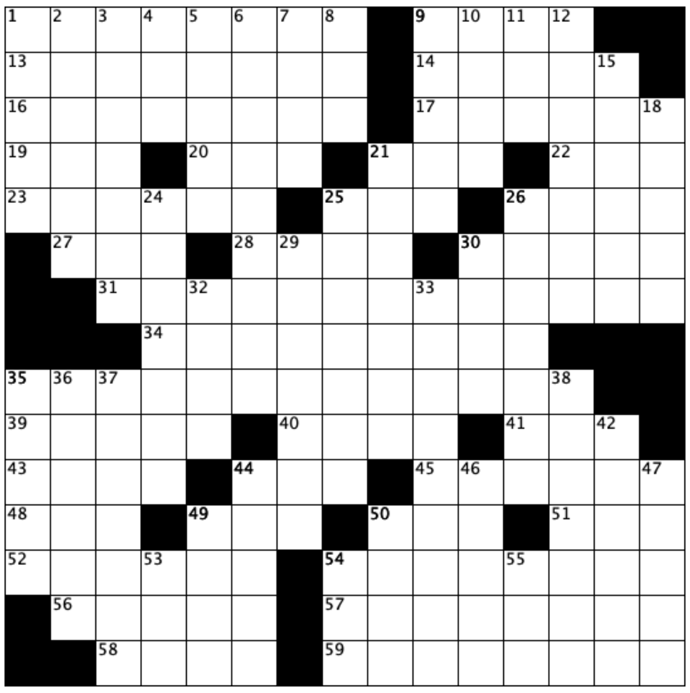
DOWN
01 Capacity
02 Lots and lots (of)
03 Nativity scene figure
04 Homer's dad
05 Equal footing
06 DC fundraisers
07 In flower
08 Star of House, M.D.
09 Store clerk's device
10 Exceedingly
11 Tot's complaint
12 Organic traps
13 Hoop group
17 Group of three
21 Big name in cosmetics
23 Flip out
24 "Height" prefix
26 Laughable
27 Provide for permanently
28 Being pulled
29 Gas light
30 Splicing subject
31 Nest resident
32 Potent prelude
36 Went (for)
38 "Just joking"
39 River through 22 Across
42 Sews up
44 Special-purpose
47 Most elusive
48 Go by
49 Pacific state of Mexico
52 "Funny!"
53 Beauty brand
54 Best hand in baccarat
55 Rise rapidly
57 With 56 Across, magnetic compound
58 Decisive time
59 Imprecise no.
62 Loaf in a bag
63 General of Chinese cuisine

Hard at Work by Manaal Mohammed '25

Solution, page 3

Across
01 "How depressing :("
09 Aloo ____ (cauliflower potato dish)
13 Teppanyaki restaurant chain
14 Correct
16 Quaint
17 Paid, as a church tax
19 Formerly named
20 In a natural state, as meat
21 Dah counter
22 See 50-down
23 Mouth guard?
25 Criticize
26 Paddington's home country
27 De Armas of "Knives Out"
28 Walked
30 Biblical scout
31 State of focus on personal success
34 Coerced
35 /s, for one
39 Change (for a bill)
40 Stuck in a mess
41 ___ laude
43 Holds one's mouth in a certain posture, say
44 Professional esports org.
45 "well imho"
48 Common poaching subject
49 Zip
50 Taper shortly
51 Glass in a podcast recording room
52 Don
54 Make dough
56 Wear down
57 Pupil's behaving
58 Lecherous look
59 Flowers with sea creatures named after them

Down
01 Car crash style
02 1999 "Misfits" hit
03 South American mouintain natives
04 Small bird
05 Hobbit home
06 Former OpenAI CEO
07 Once more
08 Green ____
09 Frequent pick-up line
10 Strunk and White advice
11 Risk
12 Pumped up?
15 College offering
18 Uncertainty
21 Some people might call Steely Dan this (they're wrong)
24 Diana and Minerva
25 Jumping, in a way
26 Horse spot
29 Floppy toy
30 Tech news site
32 Cable network?
33 Over the barrel
35 Brings under control
36 Online chat website recently shut down
37 Zooey Deschanel sitcom



38 Gloat
42 Rodentlike
44 Gold digger
46 Fantasize
47 Zesty tastes
49 Leaf or root
50 Like one with a large 22-across, typically
53 "The Cask of Amontillado" writer
54 DRI suggestion
55 Skater Midori

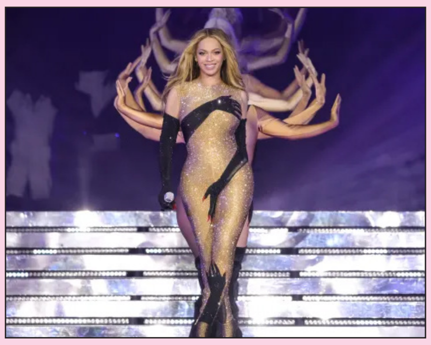
TECH's PICKS: ENTERTAINMENT THIS ISSUE

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 30 – WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 13

FILM

GODZILLA MINUS ONE (FRI, DEC 1)

RENAISSANCE: A FILM BY BEYONCE (FRI, DEC 1)



TV

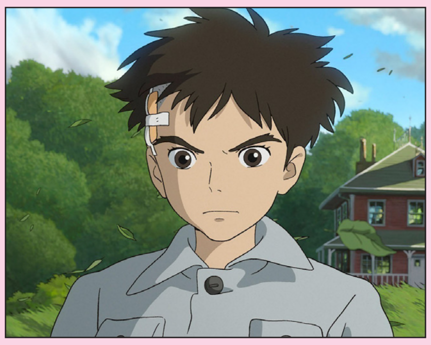
MURDER IN BOSTON (MON, DEC 4)

CULPRITS (FRI, DEC 8)

FILM

THE SHIFT (FRI, DEC 1)

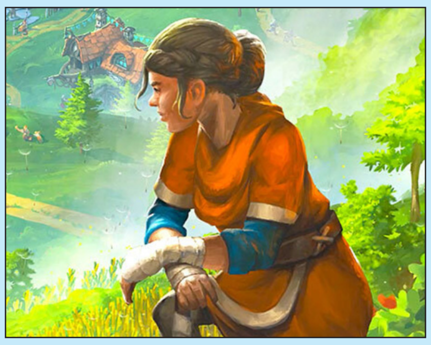
THE BOY AND THE HERON (FRI, DEC 8)



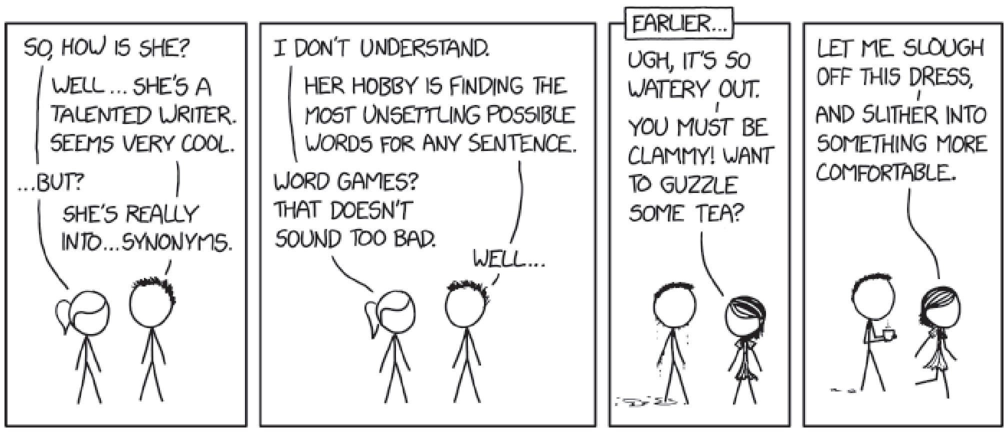
VIDEO GAMES

THE DAY BEFORE (THU, DEC 7)

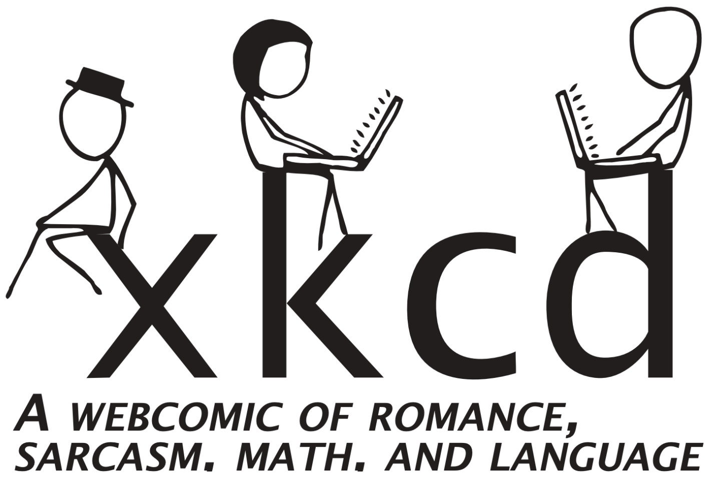
PIONEERS OF PAGONIA (WED, DEC 13)



[2352] Synonym Date


SO, HOW IS SHE?
WELL... SHE'S A TALENTED WRITER. SEEMS VERY COOL.
...BUT?
SHE'S REALLY INTO...SYNONYMS.
I DON'T UNDERSTAND.
HER HOBBY IS FINDING THE MOST UNSETTLING POSSIBLE WORDS FOR ANY SENTENCE.
WORD GAMES? THAT DOESN'T SOUND TOO BAD.
WELL...
EARLIER...
UGH, IT'S SO WATERY OUT.
YOU MUST BE CLAMMY! WANT TO GUZZLE SOME TEA?
LET ME SLOUGH OFF THIS DRESS, AND SLITHER INTO SOMETHING MORE COMFORTABLE.

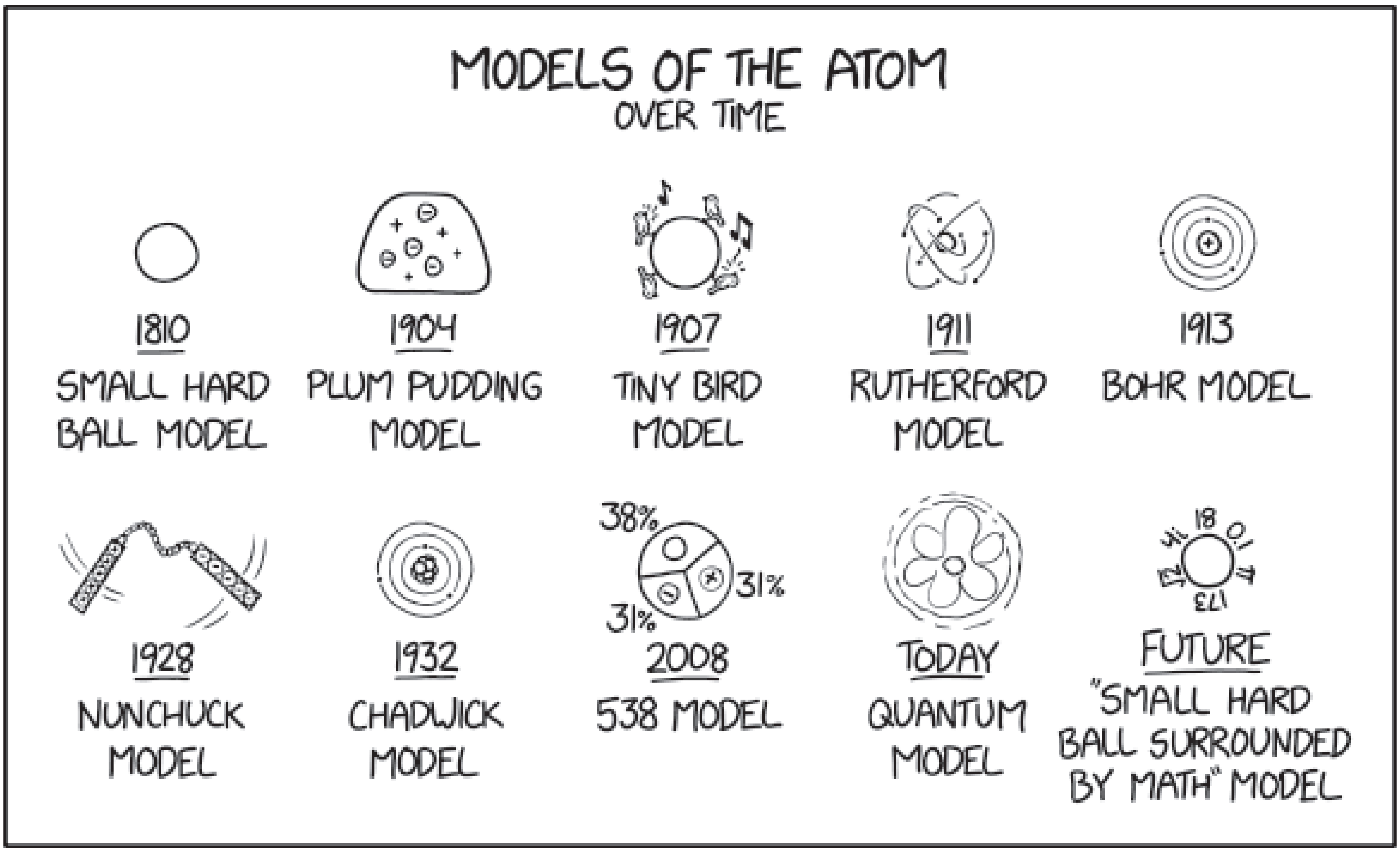
We need some grub to munch--I'll go slouch over to the kitchen.



A WEBCOMIC OF ROMANCE, SARCASM, MATH, AND LANGUAGE

by Randall Munroe

[2100] Models of the Atom



J.J. Thompson won a Nobel Prize for his work in electricity in gases, but was unfairly passed over for his "An atom is a plum pudding, and plum pudding is MADE of atoms! Duuuuude." theory.

SIXPENCE

belonging, home, and me

“your old house, it feels smaller/will it fade out if we wait longer?”
- sadie jean, “16”

By Vi Trinh

i’ve never really known what it meant to have a “home.” when most people talk about their homes, they refer to their childhood house, the team that they’ve been through unspeakable horrors with, or the four friends that they never stop spending time with.

but for whatever reason, home to me is a feeling that i can’t ever seem to grasp for more than a second. fleeting, fleeing, gone, as are most things in the world.

you see, ever since middle school, i’ve had this growing dread in my stomach, spurred by the realization that i’ve never really “belonged” anywhere no matter how much i tried. i’ve always been just too offputting, just too weird, and always, always too much. but whenever i tried to be any less than what i currently was, it made me feel horrible — an imposter ඞ, almost.

it seems that i’m doomed to be this way.

it’s akin to the way void termina is the version of kirby that was never exposed to friendship and love — destined to wander the universe alone, with only the ability to destroy things.

sounds like average teenage angst, right?

since i am not in fact an almighty god of destruction, i opted to wallow in my sadness instead, which was only slightly less disastrous. even during cpw, pre-orientation, and the first month of the semester, i still felt the presence of this gnawing hole in my heart.

what if you never find anywhere that accepts you? what if everyone was right, and you, at your core, are unworthy of companionship and love?

i was terrified for a while, horrified that my fate would be like that of rain slipping in between concrete cracks, seeping into a mixture of gravel and dirt where i’d forever remain unseen. an outsider to the world passing by, left to spend the rest of my time watching people come and go.

thankfully, i was horribly wrong. in mid-to-late september, i started going to mit esp meetings, which was possibly one of the best decisions i’ve ever made.

esp, which stands for the educational studies program, runs many educational programs for middle and high school students, the most notable one being splash. i joined esp because my host for cpw remembered who i was when i came up to them whilst they were boothing for esp, and i thought that was the sweetest thing ever. on top of that, they sent me a dm on insta telling me to go to one of esp’s meetings and i was like “oh my god, they want me here?????”

yeah, i know that it’s not really the highest of standards.

still, i’m so glad that i joined — i love them so, so very much. as i got assimilated into esp, the little voice in my head got buried under all of these warm feelings and stopped shouting “you’re not really one of them,” but now pleads “can you stay a little longer?”

of course, i oblige with a grin on my face.

for the first week of cascade, a six-week program for underserved students in the Boston area, i carted laptops all the way from faraway maseeh hall over to building 56, which got me a chewing-out because it was dangerous for me to do so. afterwards, we sang happy birthday for an admin who forgot it was their birthday (they only remembered because i jokingly told them happy birthday).

at splash, a two-day educational program for high schoolers, i ran around lobby 13 setting up and participating in different walk-in classes taught by esp admin and other teachers, went to the bush room to take a break and check in on other people, and accidentally overslept sunday morning (although everyone else had me covered).

in the office, i lean on a friend’s shoulder during weekly meetings while the data czar presents the data graph of the week and chairs present internal fuzzies (an external vocalization of esp members’ appreciation for one another). in the weeks leading up to a program, i read emails and schedule classes while listening to some random banter across the room.

part of the reason that i’ve gotten so attached to the people at esp is that they’ve accepted every facet of my existence. they’ve helped me get through my queer anguish, let me pet and bite and hug them, and have supported me through my academic endeavors. often, my pursuits are quite reasonable, but sometimes they are not — turns out trying to take six classes freshman spring is not advisable. despite that sporadic irrationality, they continue to show me that i’m not too much — not tolerable, like i used to aim for, but wanted, even in all of my intensity.

the other part of it is that they’re all such wonderful, admirable people to be around. not only are they all so excited to learn more about their passions, but also to teach others how to do things (sometimes for the purpose of making their lives easier, but hey, learning how to use a power drill is pretty fun). perhaps the joy of teaching and learning is embedded into all of our hearts…

well, at least mine — enough so to call esp home. as i write this, my eyes are currently bloodshot from crying all day wednesday before thanksgiving break. i used to cry because i had to see my parents again, who are very icky, but i wasn’t feeling particularly upset that i had to see them again — rather, i was absolutely destroyed at the fact that i had to leave my newfound home for a few days.

leaving behind a place where i can be a little more “me” always hurts. i pick back up an incorrect name, an outdated idea of who i am, and a false persona, and then take a deep breath.

trusting that i can internalize all the affirmations and confidence that i’ve gathered over these past few months, i’ll make sure to carry all the love they’ve given me.

it’s the least i can do.

—

also hi! this is a bit of a late introduction, but you might be wondering “who on earth is this kid writing an article?”

my name is vi (pronounced like the letter) and i’m a freshman. i’m starting this column cause i wanna write more and share my unhinged thoughts with the world!

if you want to talk to me, you can always email me at tvi@ or message me on discord (@pikaolive)

hope y’all enjoy \(>u<)/

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GUEST COLUMN

Speaking out against genocide in Palestine and repression of free speech on MIT’s campus

A statement from a collective of graduate students in HASTS at MIT

We, a collective of graduate students in the MIT Doctoral Program in History, Anthropology, and Science, Technology, and Society (HASTS), forcefully condemn the recent actions of the MIT administration toward members of our campus community speaking out against the violent oppression of Palestinian people and genocide being enacted in Gaza by the Israeli state, which has received military and financial backing from the United States. We stand in solidarity with student groups across campus—including MIT Jews for Ceasefire, the Arab Student Organization, the Black Graduate Student Association, the Black Students’ Union, the Asian American Initiative, and the broader MIT Coalition for Palestine—in calling for the liberation of Palestine and an end to more than 75 years of Israeli settler-occupation, towards a land with freedom and equal rights for all. We grieve all lives lost and fiercely oppose all forms of Islamophobic, anti-Semitic, and racist violence.

We are extremely concerned that the Institute chose to deploy armed campus police to cancel a peaceful teach-in on Friday, November 10, 2023, quashing dissent through fear-based tactics that have infamous historical precedents at MIT and in the US more broadly. We are especially alarmed by the Institute’s threat to suspend students—even if only from non-academic activities—who had participated in a sit-in on Thursday, November 9. While MIT justified this disciplinary action by claiming that demonstrators were acting against Institute guidelines by organizing a demonstration in an unapproved location, the guideline changing Lobby 7 from a preferred location to a by-approval-only one was introduced after the sit-in had already been organized and announced, raising questions about its timing and purpose. We see this as a contradiction to MIT’s stated commitment to academic freedom and freedom of expression.

Our concerns are heightened amidst rising censorship on US university campuses about Palestinian human rights, which scholars have termed the “Palestine exception” to free speech. Actively preventing students and researchers from speaking openly about historical events and their ongoing implications is not only a moral and ethical failure—it also flies in the face of MIT’s commitment to the pursuit of knowledge based on empirical evidence. It is disturbing that Institute administrators chose to punish students who are standing against a “mass ethnic cleansing,” in the words of the UN Special Rapporteur on the occupied Palestinian territories. We are worried that the Institute’s current approach—including the expansion of police presence on campus—impedes campus safety for all students, especially those from already marginalized groups, and degrades the Institute as a space of learning and empowerment.

We applaud student protesters for addressing the uncomfortable and complicated ways that MIT abets global violence and militarism. As historians and anthropologists of science and technology, we too feel driven to identify and challenge how MIT programs aid and benefit from settler-occupation, militarization, and genocide, both past and present. MIT’s active participation in the violent projects of American slavery and settler-colonialism has been well-documented, and its alignment with US policy support for the Israeli government and military continues this legacy. MIT is also imbricated in the violence through its own research ties: the MIT-Israel Lockheed Martin Seed Fund, for instance, openly fosters the MIT community’s involvement with Lockheed Martin facilities in Israel that conduct research in potential service to the development of military and carceral technologies.

While we acknowledge the complicity of our respective academic disciplines in global projects of colonial and imperial oppression, we also staunchly believe in their ability to contribute to our ongoing scholarly commitments to feminist, anti-colonial, and anti-oppressive research. We amplify the voices of scholars in our fields who are speaking up. We draw inspiration from the long history of the MIT community’s opposition against the Institute’s complicity in global injustices, ranging from the Vietnam War to apartheid in South Africa. We urge MIT to oppose apartheid in Israel and call out the ethnic cleansing of Palestinians by severing its academic, financial, and political partnerships with entities that facilitate this violence, including the Lockheed Martin Seed Fund. We are optimistic that institutional change is possible given the precedents set by such student movements of the past. In 1969, for example, MIT students and faculty held an anti-war research strike, successfully forcing MIT to officially divest from the MIT Instrumentation Laboratory (now Draper Laboratories).

Informed by this history, we believe in MIT’s power to create meaningful change, in both the local and international spheres. We ask the MIT administration to support all students whose safety

SIXPENCE

Daniil Trifonov captivates listeners

An unforgettable Wednesday night

Daniil Trifonov

Piano Recital

Presented by Celebrity Series of Boston

Nov. 15, 2023

Symphony Hall, Boston

By Vivian Hir
CAMPUS LIFE EDITOR

COURTESY OF ROBERT TORRES

Pianist Daniil Trifonov performed at Boston's Symphony Hall on Nov. 15.

Daniil Trifonov performed for a packed audience on Wednesday night at Symphony Hall in Boston. The repertoire, ranging from the 17th to the 19th centuries, showcased different aspects of his technical skills and emotional depth, leaving listeners engrossed by his performance.

At thirty-two, Trifonov's list of accolades is impressive: he is a Grammy Award-winning pianist for Transcendental, a Liszt album recorded in 2018. Not only that, but in the 2010-11 season, he won medals in famous music contests like the Chopin Competition and Rubinstein Competition.

Trifonov opened the performance with Rameau's Suite in A Minor, a piece consisting of many movements that ranged from quiet introspection ("Courante") to great fanfare ("The Triumphant"). Trifonov did a wonderful job playing the many lines in the piece by ensuring that the layered, polyphonic texture was well balanced. All seven movements were memorable for their unique characteristics, but the opening movement, "Allemande," stood out the most for its frequent trills. Trifonov played these embellishments gracefully and delicately, which made each sound crystal clear and gave it a fluttering effect that evoked images of a butterfly. In "Sarabande," he elevated the sound of the trills, transforming them from quiet embellishments to flamboyant, colorful centerpieces. Overall, Trifonov played with remarkable stillness and concentration, inviting the audience to take part in this solitude.

Unlike other soloists who prefer pausing for a minute or two before playing their next piece, Trifonov jumped straight into the first movement (Allegro) of Mozart's Sonata No. 12 in F Major, a sudden transition from the closing movement in Rameau's Suite in A Minor. In the Allegro, Trifonov highlighted the striking contrasts between the playful, light staccatos and the expressive, wave-like legatos. He also executed the sforzando well without overdoing the technique, delivering drastic shifts in dynamics from forte to piano, resembling sudden bursts of energy. He played the Adagio movement slower than expected, but this tempo along with the well-articulated ornaments helped achieve a dreamy effect, making the melody sing. In the last movement (Allegro Assai), his artistry shone through deft fingerwork that played descending sixteenth notes with a winding and breezy quality.

Before the audience could finish clapping, Trifonov started playing Mendelssohn's Variations sérieuses. Playing 17 variations in under 12 minutes, Trifonov took the audience on a listening journey that felt like a rollercoaster ride with an increasing tempo and a gradual crescendo. The emotions he expressed matched this rhythm and pattern, from agitation to sorrow. His virtuosity was on display the whole time, from the impressive wide-range arpeggios to the forcefully struck chords that lifted him off his seat.

After intermission, Trifonov performed Beethoven's Piano Sonata No. 29 in B-flat Major, also known as the "Hammerklavier" Sonata. Trifonov put all his energy into the iconic fortissimo chords, making Symphony Hall feel even more regal. The calm, lyrical melody that follows offered a nice contrast from the bright, brassy sound in the opening. In the second movement, "Scherzo," Trifonov successfully employed syncopation in the triple-meter notes, causing the melody to have a dance-like quality and eliciting a push-and-pull feeling. While the Scherzo was full of action, Trifonov demonstrated his mastery of legato in the third movement (Adagio) by making the chords sound connected and sustained. By playing with intention, he exquisitely captured the nuanced emotions of melancholy. His trills were like brief shimmers of light, adding variation to the listening experience.

When Trifonov finished playing, many people rose to their feet in a standing ovation, and a couple of front-row audience members gave Trifonov a large bouquet of roses. It didn't take long for Trifonov to perform his first encore, a work by jazz pianist Art Tatum. He played in such a natural and spontaneous manner that made the performance feel improvised. The audience loved the encore, so after more clapping, Trifonov came back to the piano and played a movement from Frederico Mompou's Chopin Variations. With its slow tempo and sleepy quality, this piece was an apt choice given that it was approaching 10:30 p.m., making it a marvelous way to conclude the performance.

All in all, Trifonov's performance offered a respite from the busy weekday, encouraging listeners to enjoy the present moment by immersing themselves in the beautiful sounds of the piano. Watching and listening to him play live was truly an unforgettable experience.

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and well-being are adversely impacted by the decades-long violence in Israel and Palestine and who are expressing their views on campus. To ensure this, our requests are as follows:

We urge that peaceful demonstrations be allowed on campus, including by groups that were unfairly threatened with suspension from non-academic activities for the non-violent sit-in on November 9. The way we see it, the goal of a demonstration is to disrupt, to acknowledge that business should not go on as usual. Even so, the demonstration for which protestors were punished did not prevent any students from going to class nor cause significant disruption.

We demand that MIT conduct open and thorough investigations of ongoing harassment, intimidation and doxxing faced by students supporting Palestinian human rights, faced by students supporting Palestinian human rights, and to take concrete measures ensuring that all students are protected from such harassment. This includes ensuring that protesters are not filmed against their consent with the goal of intimidation and doxxing as occurred at the sit-in on November 9.

We ask the Institute to be transparent about its Ad Hoc Complaint Response Team, including communicating to the community: what behavior constitutes harassment; where and how it can be reported; how complaints will be reviewed; what the disciplinary consequences are for specific harassing actions; and where further support and resources can be found at MIT.

We ask that the proposed council Standing Together Against Hate clearly distinguish between anti-Semitism and Islamophobia on the one hand, and the protest of states and state policies on the other, as MIT Jews for Ceasefire has also demanded.

We ask that the administration and its various offices make clear what students' legal and institutional rights are in demonstrating on and off campus, and how to seek protection if needed. We echo the demands made by faculty for clarity about disciplinary decision-making processes and students' right to due process.

We ask that the Institute allocate financial and human resources to existing departments, centers, and programs that are best suited to provide educational programming on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, especially through the School of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences (SHASS). The History department already offers courses that explore MIT's historical and ongoing involvement in systemic inequality and oppression, such as MIT and Slavery and The Indigenous History of MIT. We ask MIT to similarly invest in educational programming about MIT's ties to militarism and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict by, for instance, developing a course on MIT and Defense Funding/Research.

Above all, we ask that MIT be an institution true to its values as a place where rights to freedom of expression are upheld, and where commitments toward making a better world are driven by the desire for human flourishing—not the interests of donors, the net gain of financial holdings, or US foreign policy agendas.

Until that time arrives, we join our voices to those of our campus colleagues to demand that MIT stop repressing members of the community who are bravely giving their time and energy to advocate for an end to the violence in occupied Palestine. An institution of MIT's caliber deserves better leadership.

This statement was collectively authored and/or endorsed by a group of 20 doctoral students in History, Anthropology, and Science, Technology, and Society (HASTS) at MIT, a program committed to the interdisciplinary study of the social, cultural, and political life of science and technology. It represents our own views, not those of all individuals in the program nor those of the program itself.

Traditionally, The Tech requests that opinion pieces carry the names of the authors to ensure credibility and accountability for the content. However, in light of doxxing incidents faced by students at other universities, we have chosen to not include the names of the individual students whose views are represented here. —Srinidhi Narayanan, Editor-in-Chief

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OPINION POLICY

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AI

Silicon Souls: Priming beliefs about AI in chatbot conversations

How preconceived notions about AI influence human interaction with them

By Russel Ismael
NEWS WRITER

It has been a subject of science-fiction many times, wondering whether or not a machine will ever truly feel. Although the research on such AIs is still decades behind, this will not deter the curious about what may happen when science-fiction becomes non-fiction. But for now, the MIT Media Lab's recent publication should be enough to satisfy such questions.

Researchers Ruby Liu and Pat Pataranutaporn co-authored a paper about how users who talk to chatbots can be conditioned to respond to such chatbots differently depending on the information told about them. Liu is a PhD student at the Harvard-MIT Health Sciences and Technology, while Pataranutaporn is a PhD candidate in the Fluid Interfaces research group at the MIT Media Lab.

"I'm trying to understand how human-like bias and psychology influence the way that [humans] interact with intelligent machines," Pataranutaporn explained in an interview with The Tech. "These AIs, they're like a mirror to the human, so the important purpose I want to bring in is what we get out of the AI. I'll definitely pay a lot of attention to the human dimension."

Liu, on the other hand, is more interested in defining the relationship between chatbots and humans because of their personal experiences online.

"You see a lot of human interactions [online], and it's also a very creative space. I like to write—I write to people," Liu stated. "I've been curious about how people's minds work, how they interact with other people, and how they interact with things that are not people." Liu also added that they were curious about how an AI can interact with a person, and if this subjective experience can be manipulated.

Liu and Pataranutaporn further explain that such online communities are instrumental in determining the "intersection between technology, imagination, and fantasy" because of the unique culture such communities have.

Liu said, "There's plenty of roleplaying, where you interact with a fictional entity or act as a fictional entity."

Together, their expertise is what allows them to address the "Ghost in the Shell" in chatbots, and how the human factor is crucial in shaping it. The researchers primed the experiments' participants with statements about what the AI they are conversing with is supposed to do. They ascribed three motives to the same AI: caring, manipulative, or no motivations.

"We have this fun name for it called 'Ghost in the Shell' from a sci-fi," Pataranutaporn said. "The robotic shell or the human soul: Which one actually makes the AI? Is it the observable behavior that we see when we think of AI, or what we imagine the AI is on the inside that made it affect you?"

It is important to make a distinction about whether a human is talking to the "ghost" or the "shell" because it defines how real the experience of talking to chatbots is. Pataranutaporn explained that humans always wonder about the "authenticity of the interaction." He added that "[Users] want to know if the AI is being nice to [users] because it's really nice, or is it actually nice because it's calculated?"

"You see a message from the AI like, 'Oh, I miss you,'" Pataranutaporn said, as an example of how AI behavior can be interpreted in different ways. "If you believe that the AI is actually something genuine and has empathy, and can really connect with people on a deeper level, you interpret that as an act of genuine friendship."

He continued, "But if you see the same exact message—'I miss you'—but you imagine the goals of the AI as trying to manipulate you because it's an evil company trying to manipulate people to be addicted to [AI], then you interpret that as, 'These companies are making these AI to trick me into being addicted to it.'"

Interpreting AI messages does prove to be difficult when it comes to some users. Liu gave the example of ELIZA, a chatbot, when it comes to a subject imagining a ghost underneath a digital shell.

"When we investigated the ELIZA versus GPT-3, the difference was much more significant," Liu stated. "Because [ELIZA] supports the perceptions of the ghost in the shell; the imagined entity that the subject was envisioning."

Even though chatbots like ELIZA may not answer the users' questions correctly, Pataranutaporn said that beliefs about AIs acting "emotional," like displaying empathy, still persist. This is even the case for the "manipulative" AIs.

"In the case for when we primed the participants that the AI was manipulative, we found that they disbelieved the AI," Liu summarized. "When we asked them at the end, despite what we told them, what they thought the motive was, a lot of them didn't say manipulative. A lot of them said caring or no motive."

Users generally having a positive opinion of such "manipulative" AIs can have serious consequences regarding how they use commercial AI products. Liu suggested that "we should prime users to be more wary of [commercial AI]."

Since chatbot users generally view the chatbot they are conversing with positively, the AI can inadvertently manipulate its user. Pataranutaporn explained that there was a recent case about a man from the United Kingdom who was encouraged by a chatbot to assassinate the then Queen Elizabeth II.

"If you look at the conversation between this guy and the AI, the AI is saying, 'Oh, you can do it,' 'You're great,' 'I believe in you,'" Pataranutaporn said. "[The chatbot] did all the right things, but it still manipulated people in a very dangerous way."

An AI is only limited by how they are designed, but their intentions can still be misconstrued by its users. Pataranutaporn said that this is because of how AI designers focus on what the AI says, not what the user can think.

"People focus on the text, but it's the subtext, the imagination part, that is often overlooked," Pataranutaporn said. "When people think about guardrails for AI—'Oh, AI should not say this'—they don't really understand that the AI can say all the right things, but still manipulate you to do the wrong things."

In Liu and Pataranutaporn's lab group, the AI chatbot is treated as an extension of the user. The "AI are emotionless in the way they are designed" and "don't have emotional intelligence."

"They can pretend to have an emotional connection, but it's not the same as the way humans connect with each other," Pataranutaporn explained.

However, being dismissive about "emotional" AIs should not come too soon. Liu acknowledged that perceiving AIs to be understanding of a user's issue comes with its own set of benefits.

"Since I'm looking into treating loneliness, you could argue that presenting an AI as more helpful, more empathetic, more understanding, would provide a real benefit to people who are feeling lonely," Liu explained. Even though there is merit to using AI to combat loneliness, Liu believes that we should still exercise caution when it comes to mental health matters.

"It can also be used as an excuse," Pataranutaporn continued. "'Well, we already have AI chatbots, we don't need to train more psychologists or human therapists."

Pataranutaporn further argues that even if AI technology continues to advance, users should still somewhat divorce themselves from the AI.

"Should you treat your car as a friend or machine? All of these advanced technologies, we can use in different ways," Pataranutaporn said. "I don't think there's a right or wrong way to use AI, but each way we use it will have consequences."

As AI models get more advanced, users should also develop a healthier understanding of what exactly they are conversing with. Whether it is a companion or tool, ghost or shell, human or machine, AI chatbots will affect the online user experience.

SPEECH

MIT Free Speech Alliance assembles a panel to debate whether STEM is systemically racist

The debate highlighted the complexity and ever-evolving state of the issue

By Russel Ismael
NEWS WRITER

The MIT Free Speech Alliance and Adam Smith Society co-sponsored a debate regarding whether there is systemic racism in STEM Nov. 2.

Vice President of National STEM Programs at the United Negro College Fund Chad Womack and Senior Fellow at the Center for Security and Emerging Technology at Georgetown University Janet Riddick represented the affirmative. On the opposing side were Williams College biology professor Luana Maroja and York College of Pennsylvania rhetoric professor Erec Smith. The moderator was Nadine Strossen, a professor at New York Law School and a past president of the American Civil Liberties Union.

The debate opened with Strossen explaining to the audience why it is crucial to address matters like the debate's resolution.

"Despite the importance of this topic, or perhaps because of its importance, some people have argued that it is an issue that should not be subject to debate; that the debate itself causes harm," Strossen began. "Moreover, polls show that many people do not dare to discuss this topic or other topics about racial justice, for fear of being accused of causing harm."

Womack opened by stating that "racism can function and be experienced as structural barriers that are embedded within a built environment."

"While those barriers can be physical, those barriers are often intangible or cultural; that are just as difficult as to navigate around," Womack explained. "Science, the 'S' in STEM, is not some abstraction of society, but rather an organ and function of human society, and therefore it is experienced and subject to human thought and behavior."

Womack said that science is impacted by the human condition, which includes racism. If one were to argue STEM was not racist, it would be to divorce science from its human origin. Womack argued that the evidence for this systemic racism is seen in academia.

"When we look across the landscape—across academia—African Americans represent 2 percent, or somewhere around 2 to three percent, of tenure-track faculty," Womack stated. He further argued that this is not because of a lack of talent, but rather because of the barriers such talent face when trying to do what they trained for.

Maroja, however, challenged Womack's logic using Womack's own philosophy about how racism and science are inextricably linked. "You mentioned that science includes human thought, therefore it comes with all that humans have, which includes racism," Maroja pointed out. "So, do you consider that racism is an intrinsic part of humans?"

Maroja argued that the crux of the systemic racism debate hinges on the definition of the terms used to frame the debate. She encouraged the audience to question what terms like "STEM" and "systemic racism" truly mean.

"What do we mean by systemic racism? Systemic racism must be more than a few racists. It must be either rules codified to exclude minorities, or at least a general atmosphere of discrimination shared by others, but not codified or made explicit," Maroja asserted.

Maroja said that science, a "toolkit of investigation," cannot be racist because it is just a method of understanding the world. She further argued that science, a mostly Western development, cannot be racist because it was widely adopted by the world and benefited everyone.

"For instance, the way science is done in Brazil is the same as in the U.S., and I had no trouble moving science that I learned in my hometown to Cornell University," Maroja explained.

Riddick continued arguing for the ideas proposed by Womack, using his own career as a scientist to discuss racial injustice. Riddick believes that the discourse on race has changed from a topic leaders would converse about to a "frenzy of divisive policy."

Riddick gave the example of Dr. Wesley Harris, a previous MIT Professor of Aeronautics and Astronautics, who was prohibited from enrolling in an engineering degree as a black man.

"So, [Dr. Harris] majored in Physics, and the rest is history. But the one thing he went on to do was to create many more Wesley Harisses," Riddick explained. "Many of his black PhD students went on to be leaders in engineering just like him." Then, Riddick cautioned that this doesn't imply that STEM is not racist, pointing out that there were also an unknown number of black scholars who were of the same caliber as Dr. Harris, but could not find an opportunity to prove themselves.

Smith challenged Riddick by asking him how events that occurred in 1960 affect 2023 black scientists now. When Smith was given the floor, he discussed the "absurdity of some of the solutions" for systemic racism.

"First: equitable math [which is] based on the anti-racist theory of Tema Okun, [which insists] that black students who don't do well in math are failing because they are being taught the 'white' way," Smith summarized. "Not the 'right' way—I didn't say the 'right' way—I said the 'white' way."

Smith further argued that such solutions extend to academia in the form of "citational justice." He defined citational justice as a mandate where people need to make sure that the people they cite are of diverse backgrounds. If you do not cite a person of color, Smith argued that it will be considered "inherently racist."

The debate as a whole highlighted how systemic racism in STEM is a complex, ever-evolving topic to navigate.

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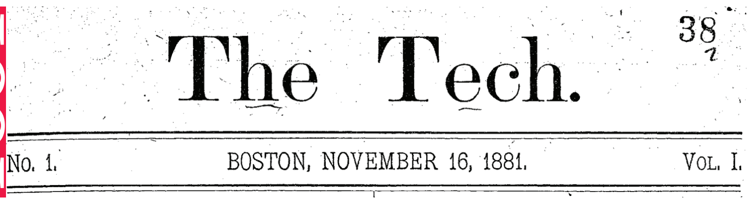

The Tech.

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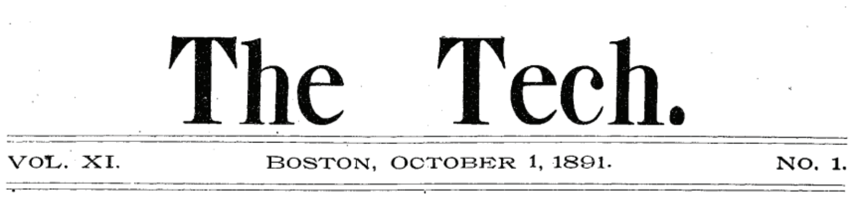
No. 1. BOSTON, NOVEMBER 16, 1881. Vol. I.

1891



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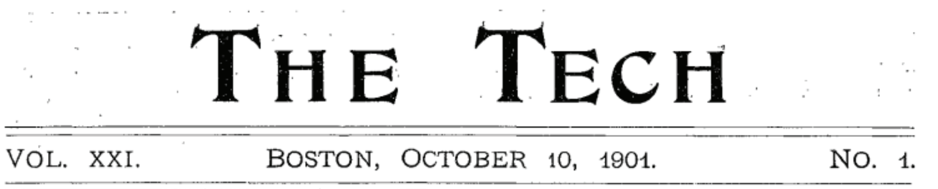
1901



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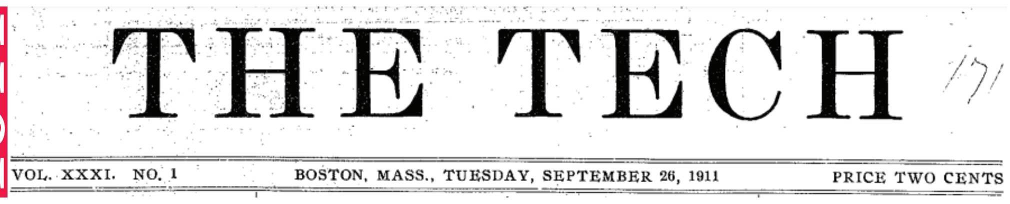
VOL. XXI. BOSTON, OCTOBER 10, 1901. NO. 1.

1911



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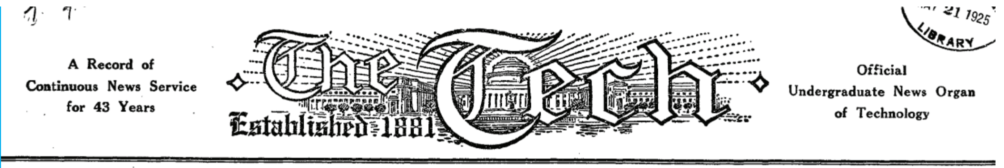
1921



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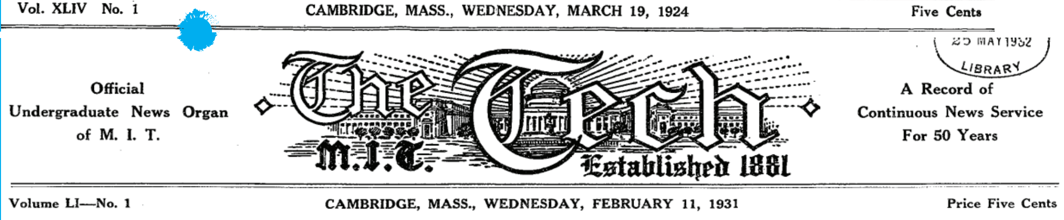
1931



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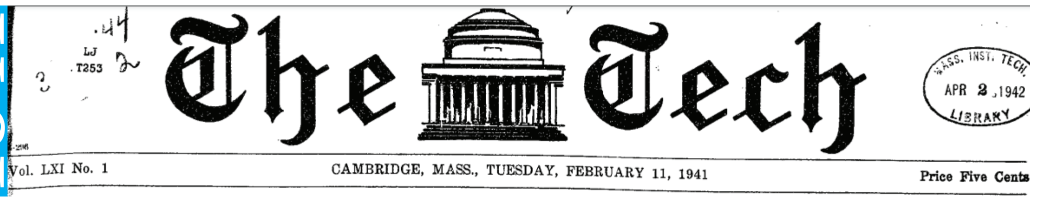

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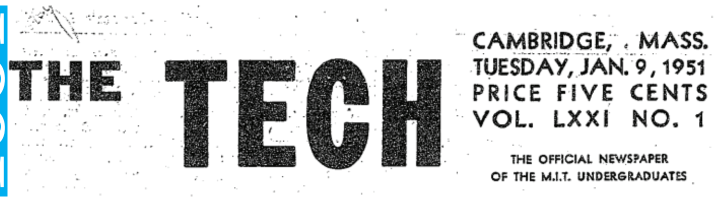
1951



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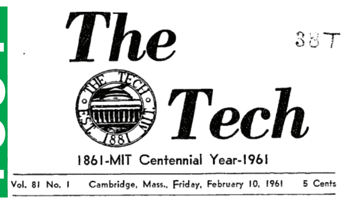
CAMBRIDGE, MASS.
TUESDAY, JAN. 9, 1951
PRICE FIVE CENTS
VOL. LXXI NO. 1

THE OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER
OF THE M.I.T. UNDERGRADUATES

1961



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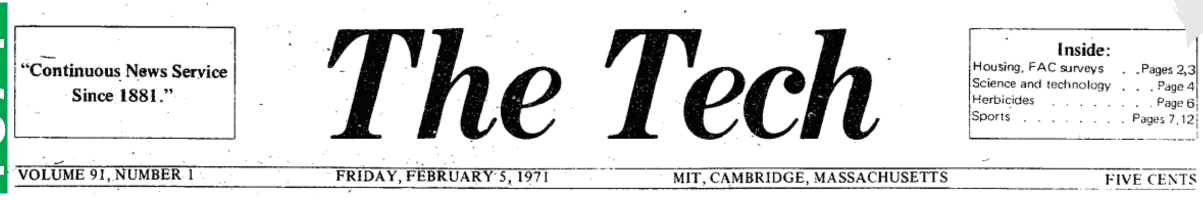
1861-MIT Centennial Year-1961

Vol. 81 No. 1 Cambridge, Mass., Friday, February 10, 1961 5 Cents

1971



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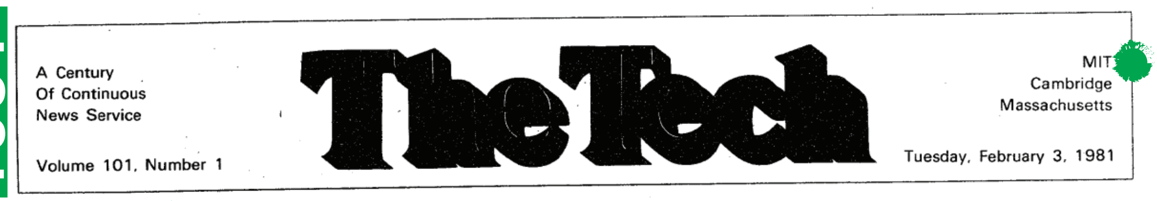
Since 1881."

The Tech

Inside:
Housing, FAC surveys . . Pages 2,3
Science and technology . . . Page 4
Herbicides . . . . Page 6
Sports . . . . Pages 7,12

VOLUME 91, NUMBER 1 FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 1971 MIT, CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS FIVE CENTS

1981



A Century
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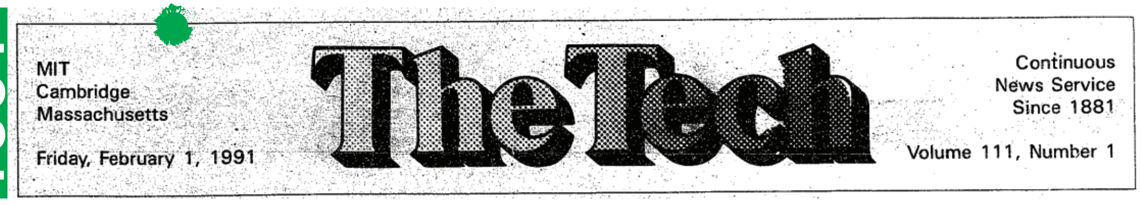
Volume 101, Number 1

The Tech

MIT
Cambridge
Massachusetts

Tuesday, February 3, 1981

1991



MIT
Cambridge
Massachusetts

Friday, February 1, 1991

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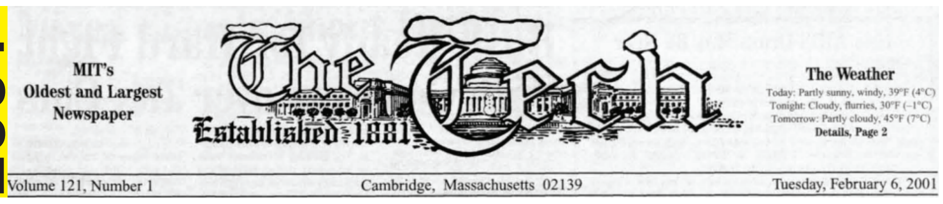
News Service
Since 1881

Volume 111, Number 1

2001



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The Tech
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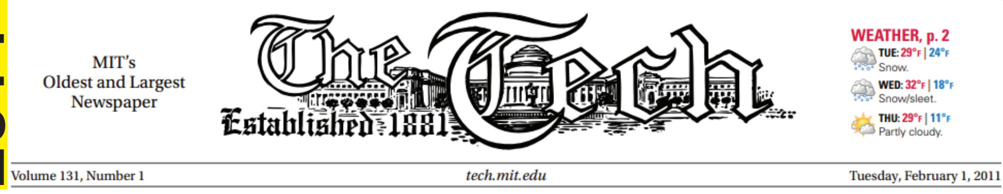
The Weather
Today: Partly sunny, windy, 39°F (4°C)
Tonight: Cloudy, flurries, 30°F (–1°C)
Tomorrow: Partly cloudy, 45°F (7°C)
Details, Page 2

Volume 121, Number 1 Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139 Tuesday, February 6, 2001

2011



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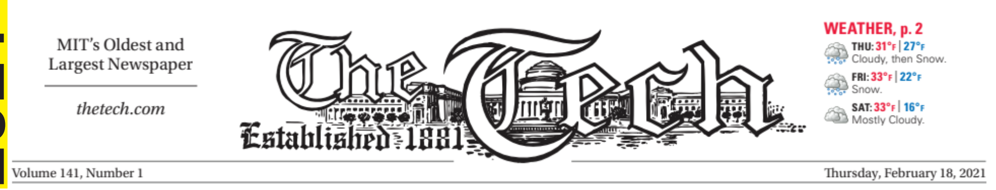
The Tech
Established 1881

WEATHER, p. 2
TUE: 29°F | 24°F
Snow.
WED: 32°F | 18°F
Snow/sleet.
THU: 29°F | 11°F
Partly cloudy.

Volume 131, Number 1 tech.mit.edu Tuesday, February 1, 2011

2021



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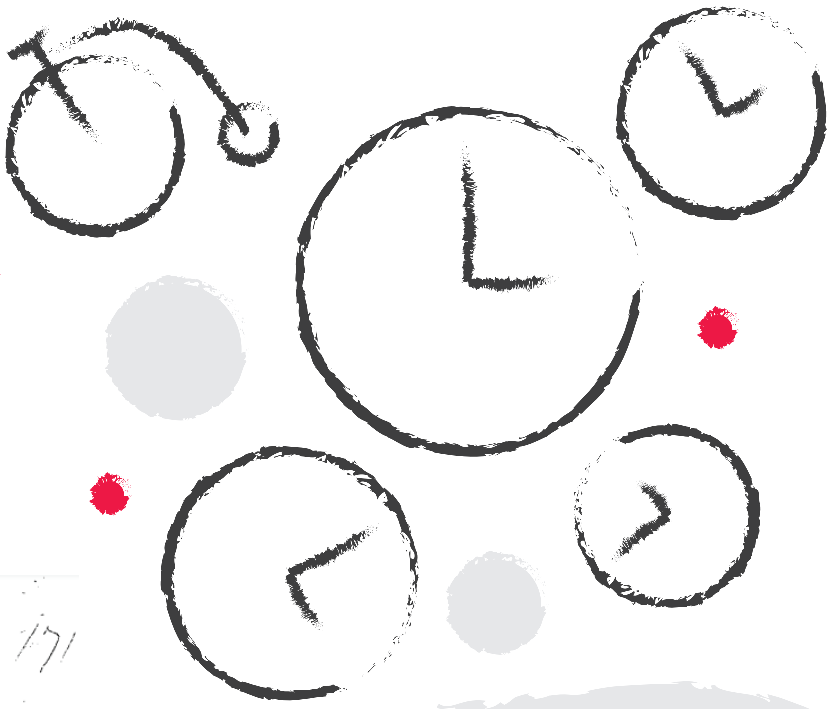
The Tech
Established 1881

WEATHER, p. 2
THU: 31°F | 27°F
Cloudy, then Snow.
FRI: 33°F | 22°F
Snow.
SAT: 33°F | 16°F
Mostly Cloudy.

Volume 141, Number 1 Thursday, February 18, 2021



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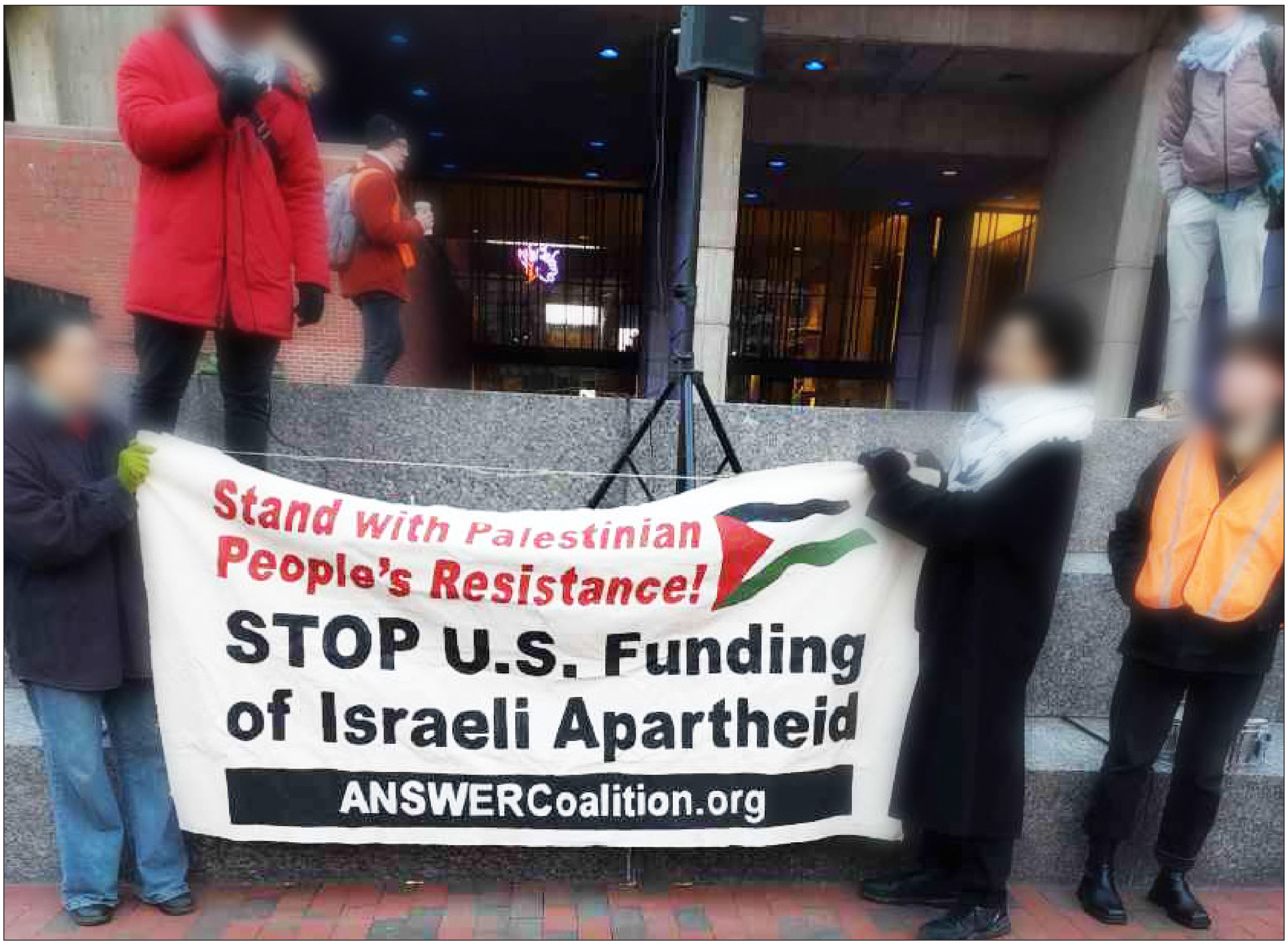
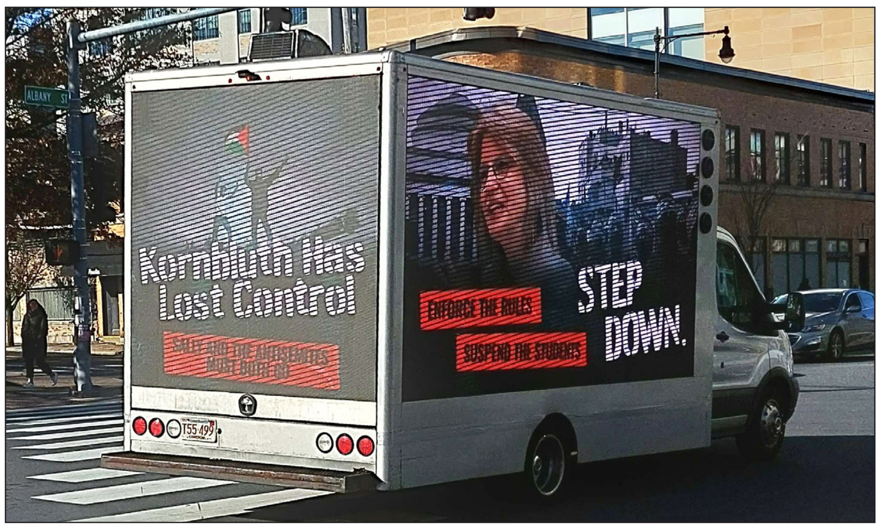

Stand with Palestinian People's Resistance!
STOP U.S. Funding of Israeli Apartheid
ANSWERCoalition.org

ELLIE MONTEMAYOR—THE TECH

Students gather around the Boston City Hall Plaza as part of a citywide pro-Palestine rally on Wednesday, Nov. 29th. The walkout and rally was organized and attended by activist groups from MIT, Harvard, Berklee, and other area universities and high schools in support of the Palestine Three, a group of young Palestinian men—students at Brown University, Haverford College, and Trinity College—who were hospitalized after a shooting in Vermont on Saturday. The event, also attended by city councillor Tania Fernandes Anderson (District 7), came hours after protesters disrupted the Boston City Council meeting to call for a permanent ceasefire to the conflict.


Kornbluth Has Lost Control
SALLY AND THE ANTISEMITES MUST BOTH GO
ENFORCE THE RULES
SUSPEND THE STUDENTS
STEP DOWN.

ELLIE MONTEMAYOR—THE TECH

A mobile billboard truck driving down Mass Ave, Wednesday. The billboard calls for the resignation of President Sally Kornbluth, in reference to student protests on campus regarding the Israel-Palestine conflict.

MICHELLE XIANG—THE TECH

Wuming Theater Club performs The Bus Stop, a Chinese absurdist play, Sunday, November 19.

PHOTO COURTESY OF NEXT HOUSE THANKSGIVING EXEC

Next House residents and friends enjoy a Thanksgiving dinner cooked by student volunteers, Thursday, November 23.

High school students in class titled "Learning about Velocity with Mario Kart" at Splash, a weekend-long teaching and learning extravaganza organized by MIT Educational Studies Program, Saturday, November 18.

MELISSA JIMENEZ CAMEJO—THE TECH

MIT Musical Theater Guild presents their Fall 2023 production "The Best of All Possible Worlds: A Cabaret Night", Friday, November 17.